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THE NEWSPAPER FOR DOVER, DEAL, SANDWICH & SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 17

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

FERRY GROUNDED BY 'SMALL HOLE'

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

yourkenttv.co.uk



NEW YEAR, NEW HOME?
A look at Dover's housing market

ALSO INSIDE

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ISSN 1753-1136



Picture ADY KERRY

■ BY TIM JOHNSON

MAVERICK ferry operator Speedferries was forced out of service over the weekend after its only vessel was involved in an accident.

On Friday its SpeedOne catamaran crashed into a pier at the harbour.

It was reported that some water got on board after the accident at 8pm and the company said the "small hole" was quickly repaired.

But it threw the small operator into turmoil as it has just one ship making the crossings to and from Boulogne each day.

Maritime regulations mean the ferry needs to be inspected before it can be deemed seaworthy again and on Sunday customers were still being told there was no service.

Passengers who had booked over the busy holiday weekend were offered crossings with other ferry companies sailing from the port, but none go direct to Boulogne.

A port worker at the Western Docks told this paper on Sunday: "It was a minor accident, but for this company it is a real blow. It has only one ship and is run on very tight budgets – a lot of customers are unaware of that."

"The company is waiting for safety inspectors to come and see the damage and the earliest they expect to be sailing again is Monday."

A spokesman for the company told the BBC: "She'd done her last crossing and everyone had disembarked. She was just moving across [the harbour] to berth for the night, and she scratched along the side of the Prince of Wales Pier."

"Some water was taken on board, but it was dealt with by our engineers. There was a small puncture, which has been repaired."

"We're now awaiting the authorities to inspect her before she can be operational again."

HAPPY AS A LAMB, IN WINTER?

A Kentish new-born lamb and its mother look to the year ahead. A delightful picture, but what's really striking is that it was taken in December rather than the more usual springtime. Strange days indeed.

miles & barr
...not just an estate agent
Kent BUSINESS AWARDS 2007 WINNER
KENT COMPANY OF THE YEAR

...not just an estate agent
see pages 30-31



WHAT'S ON & WATCH
LOCAL TV ONLINE
TOP TV CLIPS



1 In one of her last interviews in England Benazir Bhutto discussed the threat from Al-Qaeda. See Community TV



2 How you can help preserve one of England's most beautiful landscapes. Search for Kent Downs on Community TV



3 Puppet reporter Ken Tishman looks at the controversial issue of wind farms in the county. See Community TV

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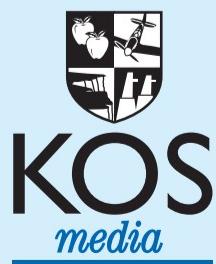
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Dignitaries resolve to make positive changes this year

■ BY MARIJKE COX

TWO days into the new year, and doubtless many resolutions have already been broken.

Still, you've got to be positive and so Yourdover spoke to people from across the district about how they're going to be tackling 2008.

Cllr Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "I am going to concentrate on seeing further advancement of Dover's regeneration."

Mandie Sehmbie, chairman of Dover Carnival Association, meanwhile, said: "New year's resolution?

"That would probably be the same as every year – to be healthier. I'm sure it won't last long, though – it never does."

Reverend David Ridley, vicar at St Mary's Church in Dover, said: "My new year's resolution is to make more space – space for myself and for others.

"The challenge in our often busy lives is to make space for that which is really important, which includes our inner selves, as well as the needs of others.

Progress

"I hope I can make a little progress in this direction in 2008."

Lynne Selman, director of citizen engagement and communications at Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT, said: "The NHS is being exhorted to 'add years to life, and life to years'.

"Therefore my resolution would be, through our local health and well-being partnership, to ensure this benefits the people of Dover."

Maggie Stephenson-Knight, founder of the Dover War Memorial Project, said: "I have two new year's resolutions.

"To catch up with my theoretical reading – I have a backlog of books – and to do more archaeology, especially more experiments with Iron Age brewing."

Jon Johanson, chairman of the Astor Theatre in Deal, said: "On a professional level locally, I would like to get the grant from the council that the Astor Theatre has been waiting



MISS DOVER: Chloe Atkins is thinking of getting her schoolwork done on time

10 months for. Nationally, I aim to find the right singer/actress so that my company's film can finally go into production."

Dean Stiles, Liberal Democrat candidate for Dover, said: "My new year's resolution is to read more newspapers online so that my recycling bin is not nearly so full each week."

Chloe Atkins, Miss Dover, said: "I haven't really thought about it yet, but I know it will definitely have something to do with my schoolwork and making sure I complete it as soon as I get it."

Charlie Elphicke, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal, said: "I want to see more facilities for young people in the area."

"There is not enough for them and I think it is important to provide more for them to enable them to have fun. That is what I will be focusing on."

"My own personal new year's resolution is to get more sleep. But my daughter Charlotte is seven and my son Thomas is one, so there's not much chance of that!"

yourshepway NEWS IN BRIEF

Information wanted about teen attack

A TEENAGE boy suffered face injuries when he was hit with a bottle at a birthday party in Whitfield.

Two groups of youths started fighting at the private party, resulting in the 15-year-old sustaining teeth and lip injuries.

Police want to speak to teenagers who attended the event, on Friday, December 14, at the Whitfield Club in Napchester Road.

Witnesses are asked to phone PC Andrew Cordell on 01304 240055 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Barn arson appeal

POLICE are appealing for help after youths were seen running from a fire that caused extensive damage.

The fire was started at about mid-day on Christmas Eve at the barn off Harbour View Road in Dover.

It is thought to have been started by two youths aged between 10 and 12.

They were described as white males, one with thick brown hair in a curtains style and the other wearing a light grey puffa jacket.

Although no one was injured, a Land-Rover and tractor were damaged in the blaze.

Anyone with information is asked to phone Det Con Colin Black on 01304 240055 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Parking price plea

DOVER District Council's Labour group is appealing to cabinet members to rethink parking cost plans.

On January 7, the cabinet will look at proposals for new parking charges.

Numerous objections have been received during the consultation period, but the council is still proposing to raise charges in key car parks.

The planned increase is 60 per cent, which means a rise from £1 to £1.60 for two hours.

Eat, drink and learn

A GUEST supper is being held by the St George's Cluster Group to talk about the relevance of Christianity.

The group, which calls itself Bridging the Gap, is holding the Alpha Guest Supper on Friday, January 4, at 7.30pm in St George's Church, High Street, Deal.

A two-course meal will be served with wine and musical entertainment, along with an opportunity to hear about Christianity.

For more details or to book a place, phone Pam on 01304 372587.

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We're on the road to less congestion

At least, that's the hope after meeting

DOVER'S transport problems were highlighted at a special day organised by the county council.

Keith Ferrin, KCC cabinet member for highways, and Dover District Council's Nigel Collor hosted the meeting.

Shadow shipping minister Julian Brazier, shadow minister for roads Robert Goodwill and Dover Tory parliamentary hopeful Charlie Elphicke also attended the discussions.

A lasting solution to Operation Stack was examined, with a look at plans for a lorry park to free the centre of Dover from lorries.

Mr Elphicke said: "We have put forward the idea of lorry parks to stop Stack. We have put forward the proposal for fully duelling the A2.

"We have also put forward the proposal that the A2 should be the route to the Eastern Docks and the M20 to the Western Docks, once built.

"Kent County Council has taken these matters up, and the shadow

■ BY MARIJKE COX

ministers' visit is a sign of progress. With a change of Government, these important improvements could move forward very quickly."

Problems with lorries in Dover were highlighted two weeks ago when bad weather caused delays for Dover-Calais sailings.

Lorries lined Townwall Street, stretching back up the A20 and causing delays for traffic moving into Dover.

Other points brought up at the meeting included the huge growth in freight traffic from overseas and the need for overnight lorry parking.

Another matter raised was the long-running campaign for a Brit Disc system to make foreign lorry hauliers pay to use UK roads.

Mr Ferrin said: "Everyone who travels on Kent's roads will know the urgent need to do something to ease congestion at crunch times.

"The visit is a good opportunity for

us to say that Kent should be treated as a special case."

- The district council has named nine new or extended roads since September.

These have included Galahad Way, Tristram Way and Queens Court-yard.

Cllr Collor said: "A range of major developments is certainly moving us forward for exciting times.

"The naming of new streets and the naming and numbering of properties is a statutory duty for local authorities and is a responsibility we take very seriously.

"This will become increasingly significant as a number of exciting major developments come together and we work hard to address the future."

Work on key developments is going ahead already, including building at the White Cliffs business park and the Dover Sea Sport Centre.

Improvements to Dover Priory railway station are also continuing for the high-speed rail link, which is due to come to Kent in 2009.



EUROPEAN WINNERS

A primary school in Dover has beaten hundreds of others in a nationwide competition to design an EU Christmas card.

St Mary's Church of England Primary school used recycled objects to create a theme of environmental awareness for the European Union's UK office Christmas card.

Under the guidance of artist Edwina Ashton, Year 5 pupils used sweet wrappers, pen tops, plastic bags and other discarded items to make a bird tree on the front of their card.

Fined thousands

A BENEFITS cheat who failed to declare that he owned a house has been ordered to fork out more than £17,000.

Keumars Bassiri, 50, of Heathfield Avenue, was also sentenced to 200 hours' community work for claiming benefits after making a false statement about his property.

He appeared before Canterbury Crown Court after admitting the charges.

Adrian Chaplin, prosecuting, said Bassiri claimed a total of £16,850 after signing a declaration stating he owned no property.

Bassiri must pay £15,850 compensation as well as £1,500 costs.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

yourkenttv.co.uk

Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Andy Stevenson from Dover talks about his 1957 Pontiac Chieftain

Car parks are on the right mark for safety award

TWO car parks in Dover district have been presented with safer parking awards.

Tides car park, Deal, and Granville Road car park, Walmer, were presented with the award, which promotes safer parking.

The award, called Park Mark, is a scheme set up by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and aimed at cutting crime in parking spots.

Cllr Nigel Collor said: "We continue to work to improve facilities and safety across the area. This is a real credit to the hard work of our parking services team and partners in the community.

"These latest awards mean around 90 per cent of the district's car parks are now recognised as safer places to work."

Car parks given the Park Mark award have met the requirements of a risk assessment carried out by the police, who look at management and inspection systems to deter criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

The awards in Deal come after CCTV cameras, funded by the Community Safety Partnership, were installed at Tides car park.

It also follows attendance of a voluntary group, The Carpenters Arms, supported by the GenX project, at Victoria Park, which gives free hot drinks to young people on Friday nights.

A Kent police spokesman said: "Crime and anti-social behaviour have been reduced significantly across the Dover district, especially in council-operated car parks.

"Although crime in car parks is unlikely to be eliminated altogether, consideration has to be given to the location of the facility and the amount of use."

The total number of Dover District Council car parks given safer parking status is now the second highest in Kent, with 36 out of 41 car parks covered.

The scheme is managed by the British Parking Association on behalf of the ACPO and supported by the Home Office.

South Kent College

For a selection of courses starting early in the New Year, visit www.southkent.ac.uk/newyear

Places are still available on two full-time courses starting in January:

Food Preparation and Cooking NVQ 1
(Dover Campus)

Hairdressing NVQ 2
(Folkestone Campus)

Alternatively, call in at one of our campuses or telephone
0845 207 8220

Information: 0845 207 8220
Visit: www.southkent.ac.uk

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- CANTERBURY Cathedral is crumbling because of old age, said campaigners hoping to raise £50 million to save the ancient and iconic Kent landmark.
- MOST of Kent's road users were caught up in the chaos caused by Operation Stack, when police partially close part of the M20 every time the ports of Dover or Calais struggle against the weather or industrial action. Kent County Council shortlisted three sites for use as a giant lorry park.
- MILLIONAIRE Tory donor Stuart Wheeler made the shock announcement he was considering giving money to the Eurosceptic UK Independence Party.

The spread-bet tycoon, who owns Chilham Castle, said he wanted the Tory Party to take a harder line on Europe.

The Kent on Sunday revelation sent shockwaves through Westminster and was the top item in all major news bulletins the next day.



- KOS interviewed the partially blind widow of a war hero who had been left distraught after thieves broke into her home and stole his medals. Commander Guy Clarabut, a submarine captain, was awarded a Distinguished Service Order, Distinguished Service Cross and two Military Crosses for his valiant and brave actions during World War Two.

● THE Bishop of Rochester warned that Britain could return to a "form of barbarism" if the decline of Christianity continued.

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali described Islam as the biggest threat facing the West since communism and called on the Government to stop being embarrassed of identifying with the nation's Christian roots.

● SINGER James Morrison visited Kent to play a low-key gig at the ABoode hotel's pub in Canterbury as a guest of Invicta FM's excellent Live at the Local series.

Later that week the charismatic 22-year-old was named the Best British Solo Artist at the Brit Awards.



- LOCAL government in Ashford and the regional development agency became mired in a pornography scandal in March. Martin Bacon was the £100,000 managing director of Ashford's Future, the quango set up to deliver regeneration and jobs.

He suddenly resigned and Ashford council and the South East England Development Agency closed ranks. Finally, council leader Paul Clokie confirmed to KoS that Mr Bacon had been downloading pornography on his office computer.

● THIS month it was revealed £2m of taxpayers' money was being paid to council bosses in Kent every year.

The Kent on Sunday investigation into local authority pay packets revealed how nearly all of the county's 16 chief executives enjoyed salaries of around £100,000 a year.

And Kent County Council's Peter Gilroy was the UK's top paid chief executive. He earns £230,000 a year, which is more than the Prime Minister.

● KENT County Council came under fire again this month for wasting £90,000 on a failed scheme to set up passenger flights to America from Manston Airport.

Tour operator Cosmos pulled out and KCC lost all of its cash. The loss came less than two years after EUjet went bust. KCC had also invested £100,000 in that failed venture.

Review of 2007

It has been another eventful year for Kent, with everything from the Tour de France to earthquakes making headlines. Here's the pick of the news, as reported by our sister paper Kent on Sunday, over the last 365 days



- PEOPLE in east Kent suffered an earthquake on Saturday, April 28.

The tremor, which measured 4.3 on the Richter Scale, struck at 8.19am and caused an estimated £20m insurance bill. Thousands of homes were left temporarily without power in Folkestone and Dover.

● THRILLER writer David Hewson published his account of the battle to prevent the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty at Wye from being covered in thousands of homes.

Saved told of the campaign fought against Imperial College, Kent County Council and Ashford council, which were working together to push through plans for a massive housing estate and a science park at Wye.

One of the reviews said: "This book is invaluable for any community, rural or otherwise, whose way of life and environment is being threatened by seemingly overwhelming firepower and resources."



- THE deputy leader of Kent County Council was in the American state of Virginia helping to celebrate the Queen's state visit.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were marking the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first English-speaking settlement at Jamestown.

KCC's Cllr Alex King led a Kent delegation to Virginia.

● KENT on Sunday exposed the injustice of how one third of the county's care homes only got 'adequate' or 'poor' ratings.

Age Concern, Britain's largest charity for old

people, said standards at many of the homes were "just not good enough".

But KCC pointed out that 60 per cent of homes were assessed as 'good' or 'excellent' and less than 10 per cent were 'poor'.

- A POLL by Kent on Sunday showed Tory MPs in the county were overwhelmingly in favour of keeping grammar schools.

And seven out of 15 even said they would like to see more built – in defiance of the Conservative leadership, which had ruled out a new generation of the schools.



- TONY Blair congratulated Kent on Sunday and its readers for its campaign to help the village of Kent in Sierra Leone.

The message of support from the Prime Minister came after KoS delivered a tonne of donated schoolbooks and educational materials to the war-torn country.

- THE Home Office sparked anger and incomprehension over its decision to deport former professional cricketer Hartley Alleyne.

Mr Alleyne was refused a work permit and told to leave after the Home Office ruled his experience did not equate to the two A-levels needed to coach and work as a boarding assistant at St Edmund's School in Canterbury.

His campaign to stay continues backed by Kent on Sunday and Yourcanterbury.

- VETERAN paratrooper Mark Eyles-Thomas recalled the horrors of war in an interview with KoS to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War.

The 42-year-old, from Birling, told of how he

cradled a dying friend on the frozen slopes of Mount Longdon, the frost-covered strategic mount, which barred the way to the capital Port Stanley.

That night 23 paratroopers were killed, including three of Mr Eyles-Thomas' close friends.



- SOME village pubs could be forced to close by the smoking ban which came into force at the start of July, it was claimed.

The Kent-based head of a national publicans' group warned traditional community pubs that do not serve food were most at risk.

Godfrey Page, chairman of the Guild of Master Victuallers, which represents hundreds of pubs nationally, said the ban would inevitably lead to some closures.

- HUNDREDS of thousands flooded on to the streets of the county to watch the Tour de France make its way from London to Canterbury. On a rare day of good weather in the summer, the event was hailed a massive success, injecting millions of pounds into the local economy.

- THE Sierra Leone blind school choir's concert at Canterbury Cathedral was hailed as a triumph.

Around 700 people watched the magical performance by the choir from the Milton Margai School for the Blind.

The choir received a standing ovation at the finale. Audience members then donated more than £3,000 to the school.

Kent on Sunday organised the concert with the UK charity that supports the school.



- HOLLYWOOD star Matt Damon praised the director Paul Greengrass, who grew up in Kent.

The Bourne Ultimatum, directed by Greengrass and starring Damon in the title role, opened nationwide at cinemas in August.

Damon told Kent on Sunday: "Paul's style about not interfering in what's happening – it comes out of his documentary film-making."

- AN ARMY sniper revealed for the first time details of a ferocious battle in Iraq involving Kent-based troops.

Sergeant Dan Mills is a member of 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (1WP RR), which has its regimental headquarters in Canterbury.

He and a small company of 100 British soldiers held onto a remote base in the town of Al Amarah, in the Maysan province, while fanatical soldiers from the Mahdi Army attempted to dislodge them.

- TV ACTOR Chris Langham was found guilty of 15 counts of making indecent images of children. Langham, of Cranbrook, was later jailed for 10 months, though the sentence was later reduced on appeal.

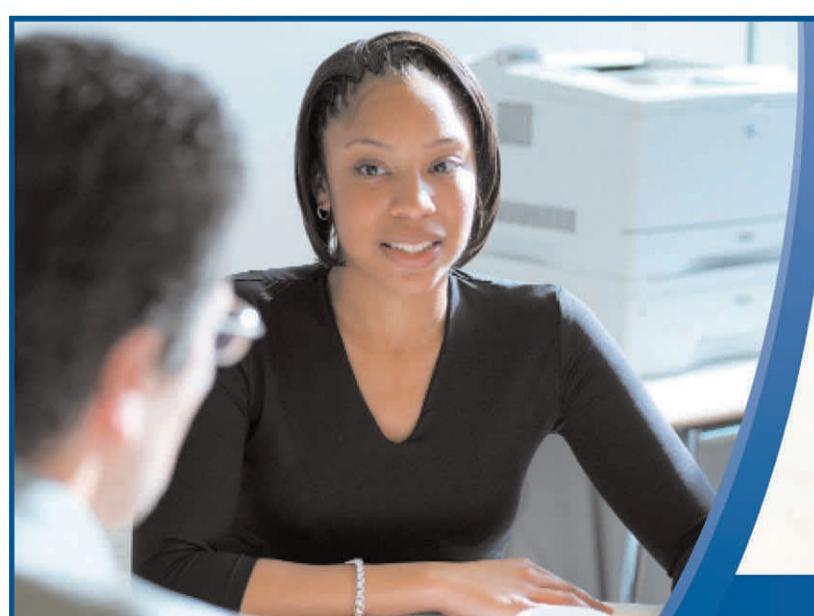


- NINETY patients died as a result of contracting the superbug Clostridium difficile at hospitals run by the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, according to a damning report from the Healthcare Commission.

The watchdog said there was "a litany of errors" in infection control and criticised the lack of leadership at the trust.

The trust's chief executive Rose Gibb resigned shortly before the report was made public.

- A GROWING number of families were facing unmanageable levels of debt – and experts warned the situation would escalate.



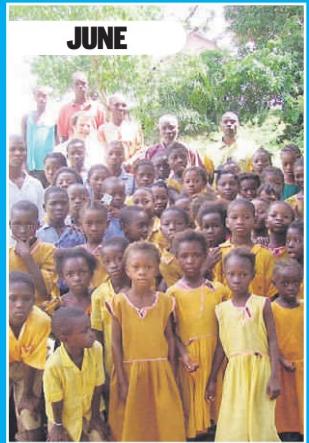
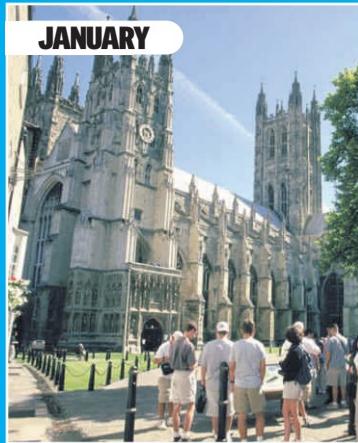
Canterbury College and Sheppey College Access to Health and Society Diploma

The Access to Health and Society Diploma at Canterbury College and Sheppey College is a FREE course that provides an ideal route into Higher Education for adult learners who are interested in returning to study or for those with few or no formal qualifications.

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For more details contact Brian Jones on 01227 811287, email b.jones@cant-col.ac.uk or Geraldine Bassett on 01795 581581, email g.bassett@cant-col.ac.uk

CANTERBURY COLLEGE New Dover Road, Canterbury CT1 3AJ www.cant-col.ac.uk



Nationally, the amount of people losing their homes to debt was up by nearly a third on 2006's figures as a result of interest rates increasing, the commission said.

● LORD Deedes' youngest daughter, Lucy, spoke of her sadness on ending the family's ties with the county after their home was put up for sale.

The former Ashford MP and Daily Telegraph editor, who died aged 94, had lived in Aldington since 1946, but the family home went on the market in September for £750,000.

● THE local media scene received a much needed shake-up when KoS Media unleashed nine new local newspapers and a broadband TV channel. The free Your Local series were greeted with enthusiasm by readers across the county, while thousands flocked online to watch and upload clips to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

● LOCAL radio presenter Julie Maddocks bid an emotional farewell to her listeners after being axed from her afternoon slot by BBC Radio Kent bosses.

Her dismissal had upset colleagues. One told KoS: "It was not Julie's choice to go and it is incredibly sad."

● WHEN Tony Blair bought Gordon Brown an ice cream in Gillingham ahead of the last general election some of his close advisors were "almost vomiting" according to a new Blair biography.

The book, *Blair Unbound*, added: "They're virtually holding hands".

● NEARLY three quarters of all criminal offences committed in Kent go unsolved, figures revealed. The Home Office statistics, released in October, showed detection rates for every type of criminal offence.

Kent police detected 18 per cent of robberies; 49 per cent of violence cases; 29 per cent of sex offences; 16 per cent of criminal damage cases; 30 per cent of fraud and forgery cases and 20 per cent for theft and handling stolen goods.

● THE parents of Jake Alderton paid tribute to their loving son who died in the service of his country in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Jake Alderton, a soldier with Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment was killed in a road accident in Helmand Province.

Keith Alderton, his father, said: "If I could get him back tomorrow I'd have him, but what a fitting person to be that special, last soldier to die before Remembrance Sunday."

● ESTATE agents said the home informa-

tion packs (HIPs) were causing widespread confusion and should be scrapped.

The Government announced that the packs would be extended so that they cover all properties.

Agents in Kent said that HIPs had created more trouble than they have solved.

● TWO bodies were found at a house in Margate. Police discovered the body of missing schoolgirl Vicky Hamilton in the garden of 50 Irvine Drive.

The 15-year-old was last seen in Scotland in 1991. Peter Tobin, 61, has been charged with her murder.

Police later found the body of Dinah McNicol, who was last seen in Surrey in 1991.

● UNMANNED police spy planes could soon be patrolling the skies over Kent on the hunt for smugglers, criminals and erratic drivers. Cops are planning to introduce the lightweight drones, currently being used by the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, by 2012.

● THE South East England Development Agency was branded a costly talking shop responsible for a "chronic, systematic waste of public money".

The quango, set up by Labour in 1999, was under scrutiny after it emerged that its three-day-a-week chairman, James Braithwaite, spent more than £51,000 on taxis alone last year.

The political commentator Leo McKinstry accused Seeda – which spent £195 million last year – of having "a scandalous contempt for the public purse".

● AN ARTIST who is producing an exclusive artwork to be exhibited in Folkestone scooped this year's Turner Prize.

Mark Wallinger won the prestigious award for his work *State Britain*, a precise reconstruction of anti-war protestor Brian Haw's display that stood in Parliament Square before being taken down by police last year.

Mr Wallinger is one of 23 artists taking part in the first Folkestone Triennial, a cultural event in which public works of art will be installed around the town next summer.

● THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury made an impassioned Christmas appeal for mankind to care more about the world.

In a special message to Kent on Sunday readers, Dr Rowan Williams referred to recent talks in Bali on climate change. He called on people to help address global warming, even if that meant making sacrifices.

The Bishop of Rochester, meanwhile, was mourning the death of friend Benazir Bhutto.

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All the hits and more...
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WHAT'S ON AT THE WINTER GARDENS

Every Monday Line Dancing 7.00pm - 9.30pm. Every Tuesday Tea Dance with Colin Jay and his music 2.15pm - 4.30pm

FEBRUARY 2008	Saturday 2nd	Saturday 15th	Saturday 11th
Mr Wonderful Dancing 7.30pm	Bjorn Again 7.30pm	Off The Wall 7.30pm	Oh Boy It's The Non Stop 60's 7.30pm
Wednesday 27th	Sunday 16th	Saturday 17th	One Night of Queen 7.30pm
3A Entertainments Ltd. presents Natasha Bedingfield plus support 7.30pm	Simon Party Showtime 2.30pm	Sunday 18th	Vienna Festival Ballet presents Sleeping Beauty 5.00pm
Friday 29th	Gordon Clarkson presents Simple Simon Party Showtime 2.30pm	Saturday 29th	JUNE 2008
2 Outspoken presents Something Kinda Oooh 2.30pm	Off The Wall 7.30pm	Disco Inferno 9.00pm	Sunday 1st
MARCH 2008	Saturday 8th	Sunday 27th	T-Rextasy 7.30pm
The Rat Pack Live 7.30pm	Sunday 9th	LDN Wrestling 5.00pm	Tuesday 3rd
All Stars Band 19th Annual Charity Concert 7.30pm	Sunday 4th	May 2008	David Essex 7.30pm
		Rock for Africa Concert 7.30pm	Sunday 29th
			Colin Fry (medium) 7.30pm



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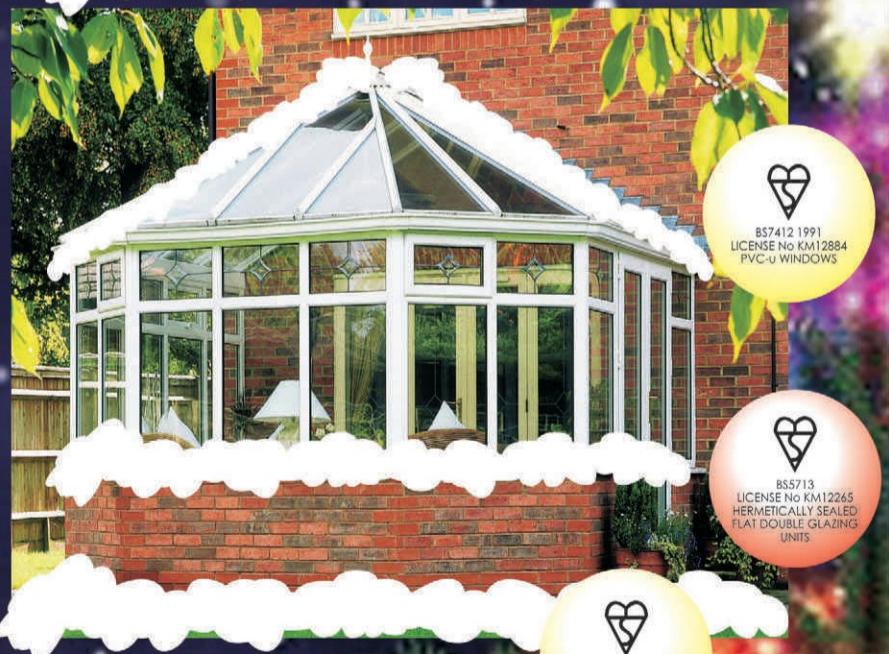
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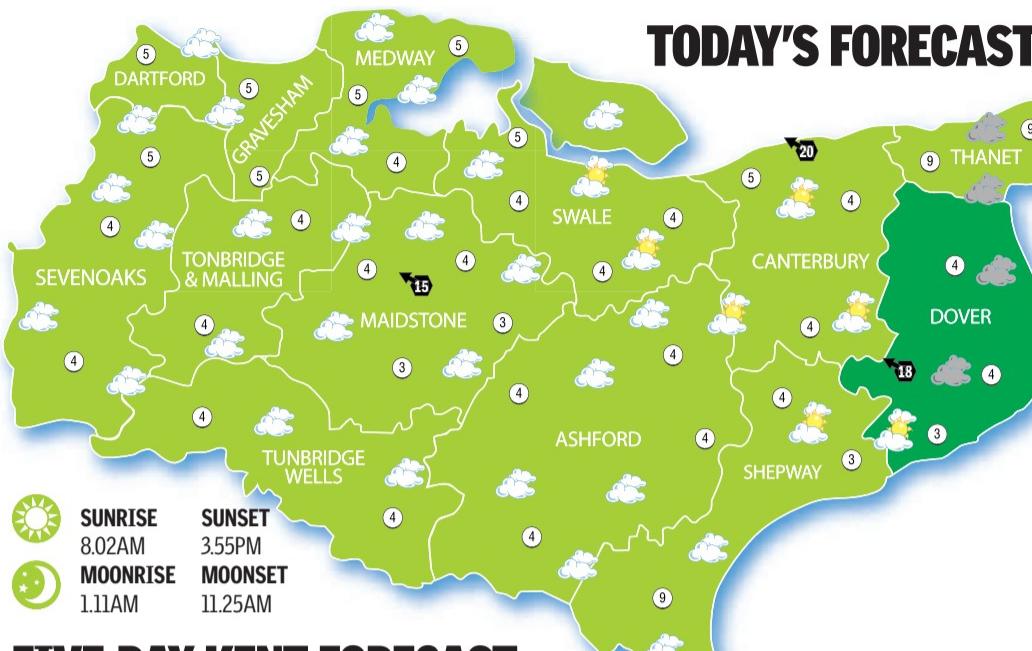
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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	6:04pm	5.1m
	Sunday	-	-
Dover	Saturday	4:21pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:23pm	5.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	4:22pm	6.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:50pm	4.2m
	Sunday	-	-
Sheerness	Saturday	5:53pm	4.9m
	Sunday	-	-
Whitstable	Saturday	5:58pm	4.6m
	Sunday	-	-

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	8°C	Madrid	7°C
Athens	10°C	New York	8°C
Barcelona	10°C	Paris	8°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	9°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	28°C
Cape Town	33°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	12°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	5°C
Hong Kong	19°C	Warsaw	0°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	20°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	Gravesend	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C	Maidstone	8°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C
Chatham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Ramsgate	7°C	7°C	4°C	3°C	7°C
Dartford	9°C	8°C	5°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Dover	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
Faversham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C
Folkestone	7°C	7°C	3°C	3°C	6°C	Tonbridge	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C
Gillingham	8°C	8°C	5°C	4°C	6°C	Tun Wells	8°C	8°C	4°C	4°C	5°C

yourdover NEWS IN BRIEF

Turbine helping council cut its carbon footprint

A WIND TURBINE installed at Dover District Council's offices stopped about half a tonne of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere during its first fortnight, it is being claimed.

It is also thought that the 17-metre turbine, which is helping to power the offices, could save more than £4,000 on annual energy bills.

Cllr Nicholas Kenton said: "We are delighted with the success of this important project."

"Our thanks go to those who are providing grant funding, and we are proud to protect the environment, save resources, and cut our carbon footprint for the future."

DDC's energy efficiency officer Shaun Cline worked with the Kent Energy Centre to secure funds towards the installation. He said: "It's taken three years for us to get the turbine up and running, but it shows how the council are doing their bit for the environment."

A number of groups have provided funds for the scheme, including the South East England Development Agency, which gave £27,000.

The Energy Saving Trust from the Government's Low Carbon Building Programme showed its support by giving £30,000.

The project was also partly funded by EDF Energy, which has granted £30,000 towards the initiative from its Green Fund.

The turbine is contributing to the council offices' electricity requirements and should generate 45,000-50,000 kWhrs/yr.

It is also linked to the national grid to export electricity at times of low demand.

Dover District Council is one of the first authorities in the country to have its own stand-alone wind turbine on its premises.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

IAN COOLING



Q&A

IAN COOLING, chairman of Kent Crimestoppers, talks about the impact the organisation's freephone telephone number and its campaigns are making in the fight against crime

Q How long have you been involved with Kent Crimestoppers?

A I joined Kent Crimestoppers in the summer of 2004, became vice-chairman in the autumn of 2005 and was elected chairman in the summer of 2006.

Q What are Kent Crimestoppers' main aims and objectives?

A Kent Crimestoppers' vision is 'The Crimestoppers number in every house in Kent'. The wider national objectives of Crimestoppers are:

'Through the provision of a freephone number, 0800 555 111, to help identify, prevent, solve and reduce crime by enabling anyone with details of criminal activity to pass them on anonymously, without fear of exposure or retribution.'

Or, in the words of our slogan: 'Tell us what you know, not who you are.'

Q Calls to Kent Crimestoppers are anonymous, which must result in a lot more people calling you, than say, the police. How does this work?

A At two levels, firstly, the technical, all caller identification equipment is disabled at our 24/7 call centre in Godstone, Surrey. Secondly, our operators are trained to exclude all identification details from all reports passed to the police. From those reports, it is not possible even to identify whether the caller was male or female.

Q Keeping calls anonymous must encourage more people to ring. Do you receive a lot of calls from members of the public?

A The numbers are huge. Nationally, in the year April 2006-March 2007, we received 80,660 actionable calls.

These are defined as calls that lead to such police action as arrest, caution, court appearance and sentencing.

The all calls/actionable calls ratio is greater than six to one. In November, actionable calls for Kent totalled 111.

Q The Rat on a Rat campaign was launched in October to tackle drug dealers in Kent. Have there been many calls and arrests since it was started?

A It's early days yet as calls continue to trickle in from specific campaigns over months rather than weeks.

Also, one of the realities of the anonymity procedures is that it does make it more difficult to pin down a report to a specific area.

However, those caveats aside, last month (November 2007), the first full month since the campaign began, 111 actionable calls were received for Kent.

Of these, no fewer than 45 (40 per cent) were drugs-related. I should be very surprised indeed if some of these were not triggered by the Rat on a Rat campaign.

Q Do you get positive feedback from the communities that you work with?

A Yes indeed. We regularly man a stall at community safety events across the County and regularly receive praise for the Crimestoppers service.

People feel it gives them a channel to pass the information they have, without putting themselves in harms way.

Parents are also positive about the Say No And Phone (SNAP) dances we organise for youngsters across Kent.

They like the idea of putting the Crimestoppers message over to youngsters in a safe environment that is popular with the youngsters themselves. Events attract up to 400 dance-goers

Q What is your favourite thing about being chairman of Kent Crimestoppers?

A Being a member of a busy and successful team in Kent Crimestoppers and Crimestoppers nationally. The 2006/07 figures tell the story better than I can and as a result of calls to Crimestoppers:

A Someone was arrested in the UK for murder or other unlawful killing every five days.

B Every day, 17 people were arrested.

C Drugs with a street value of more than £7 million were recovered.

D Property worth more than £4m was recovered.

I feel Crimestoppers really is making an impact on crime across Kent and across the country.

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LOCAL TV ONLINE

1 Wild about a baby gorilla

Amazing footage of the first gorilla to be born in the wild to reintroduced parents. The film's been released by the Canterbury-based Aspinall Foundation. The baby was born in the Republic of Gabon to wild-born orphans, 10-year-old Lekedi and 12-year-old Marco.



3 Cheers to helping war heroes

Reporter Nick Ames' short film tells how Faversham-based brewer Shepherd Neame has chosen to back the Help for Heroes campaign. All the cash raised from the charity will be going to help soldiers who have been injured in action.



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2 Signs that buzzards are back

Some of the most exciting video for bird watchers during 2007 was this film of the Common Buzzard flying above Selsted near Folkestone. The pair were filmed by KOS cameraman Paul Jerreat, proving the birds are re-establishing themselves in the county.



4 Learn how to lay a hedge

No longer a dying art, this video gives a brief introduction into hedge laying and is useful for anyone considering going along to the course in Hawkinge on January 6. You can try yourself or just go along to watch between 10.30am and 3.30pm in Crete Road.



SPORT TV



A futsal coach teaching youngsters football skills

BUSINESS TV



Meet the mums who launched a child-friendly business

PROPERTY TV



Watch videos on the best of the county's property hotspots

LEISURE TV



Author David Hewson discusses his best-selling thrillers

MOTORS TV



Motoring editor Steve Loader on a car for the iPod generation

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Uncovering the county's history

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

BENEATH the Garden of England lie the remains of past civilisations from the earliest period of human history to the emergence of the Kingdom of Kent and beyond.

The archaeological richness of the county is explored in a new book that reveals how each new development in Kent, both major and minor, brings us closer to the past.

The Archaeology of Kent to AD 800 is edited by John Williams who is head of heritage conservation at Kent County Council.

Part of Mr Williams' job at KCC is to ensure the county's archaeological heritage is safeguarded and investigated through the planning process.

With 160,000 new homes planned for the Thames Gateway and areas including Ashford and Maidstone undergoing major growth he has his work cut out.

He said ancient sites were being discovered everywhere that the growth agenda has an impact.

"We have been able to revise our story and get it up to date but the archaeological work is ongoing and we will continue to get major new contributions to the story of Kent."

"Sites are coming up all the time – even since the book has been published there have been some wonderful finds."

"At the A2 south of Gravesend, two very rich early Roman graves were discovered and there were some prehistoric field systems and Anglo-Saxon remains at Ebbsfleet."

Mr Williams told how Kent's archaeology is unique because of the county's proximity to mainland Europe.

Britain used to be a peninsula with the North Downs continuing uninterrupted into Northern France. During later periods of pre-history and carrying on into modern time links across the Channel have continued with the arrival of the Romans and the Normans.

"Kent is one of the key places. There were a lot of Stone Age discoveries in north Kent on the farmland near the gravel of the Thames," he said.

Swanscombe was home to the oldest human

remains in the country until a recent find in Sussex. The skull was from a woman believed to have died 400,000 years ago.

Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon discoveries have been made in Canterbury, which has layers of past generations beneath the foundations of modern stores.

The redevelopment of the Whitefriars shopping centre from 2000 to 2003 allowed archaeologists to carry out a large-scale excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury.

Jewellery and personal items dating from Anglo-Saxon times show that Kentish fashions in the sixth to seventh century were a fusion of Scandinavian forms and other continental mode of decoration.

The use and availability of luxury materials marks out Kent from the rest of England, said Mr Williams.

Grave

Pendants found in a grave in Sibertswold near Dover include two imported gold coins, garnet and amethyst cabochons, which are gem stones that have been shaped and polished, and decorated millefiori – or coloured – glass.

The pendants and necklaces found unearthed would not look out of place adorning a modern woman, but they are more than 1,300 years old.

Mr Williams said: "The book offers something for both those with a real interest in archaeology and it is hoped that the people with a more general interest in Kent and its past will be attracted by it.

"The joy is its accessibility and that is what we were aiming for."

The book is packed full of colour illustrations and accurate drawings that recreate archaeological sites and digs.

Contributors include Martin Millett, who is Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology at Cambridge University, a specialist in the social and economic change in the Roman world.

Francis Wenban-Smith, a principal research fellow in the department of archaeology at the University of Southampton, who is currently leading the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project also contributed.

The book costs £25, published by KCC and Boydell Press from all good bookshops. Order copies from Business Support, Heritage Conservation Kent County Council, Second Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.



TREASURE TROVE: Large excavation of medieval and Roman Canterbury (2000-03) at the site of the Whitefriars shopping centre



FINDINGS: Middle Bronze Age gold torcs (rigid necklaces) from the River Medway at Aylesford (can be seen at the Maidstone Museum) (right); (Above) Dress fittings from a grave in Finglesham near Sandwich, which include a Scandinavian square-headed brooch and Frankish bird brooches; (above right) View of the penstocks and wheelpit – parts of an eight century watermill found at Ebbsfleet. It is thought to be the first found of such an early date outside early Christian Ireland

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FOR great savings on books and DVDs, pop into WHSmith in Dover.

With DVD box-sets from £6.99 and half-price hardback books, it is the ideal opportunity to pick up a bargain.

Jeremy Clarkson's new book, Don't Stop Me Now, costs £10, with Richard Hammond's On The Edge and Lewis Hamilton's My Story just £9.49.

Other books include Russell Brand's My Booky Wook and Sharon Osbourne's autobiography Survivor for £9.49.

For more information, pop into your local store on Biggin Street, Dover.

New Year will be a corker thanks to M&S

MARKS AND SPENCER is popping the price of its bottles of bubbly.

The high street giant is offering up to 30 per cent off some champagnes to help New Year's Eve go with a bang.

Bottles of cava, rose and other sparkling wines add extra fizz to the offer. Prices start at £36.40 for four bottles of Vintage 2004 Cava, all the way up to £169 for six bottles of Orpale Grand Cru Champagne.

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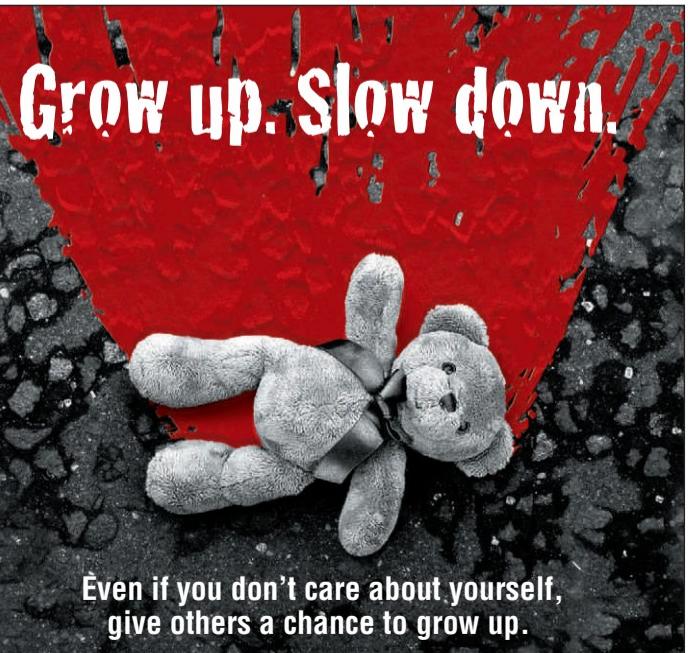
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yourcompetition

WIN! An animal adoption box

YOURLOCAL Newspaper has come together with Kent based charity, The Aspinall Foundation, to give readers the chance to win an animal 'adoption box' complete with a tiger, elephant or gorilla cuddly toy, helping the charity continue in their aim to protect and breed endangered animals and return them to their natural habitat in the wild.

"Adopt in a box", encourages children to learn more about the charity's animal protection and conservation programmes, as well as raising funds to support this work.

This is your chance to win your own "adopt in a box". Normally the cost is £25 which includes either a cuddly Tugar, the tiger, housed at Port Lympne or Jara, the elephant, who lives at Howletts, both of whom are featured on BBC TV's Roar or Djéké who lives in Africa. An entry ticket to either park, an adoption certificate, plus fun stuff for your mobile or PC is also included.

The Aspinall Foundation supports and manages Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, home to more than 1,000 animals and 90



different species.

The parks house the largest captive group of western lowland gorillas in the world; the largest breeding herd of black rhino outside of Africa and the largest collection of African elephants in Europe. The parks are at the forefront of breeding rare and endangered species including clouded leopard, rusty spotted cats, gibbons, drills, black and white ruffed lemurs, hunting dogs, lions and tigers.

This work includes two gorilla rescue and rehabilitation projects in Gabon and Congo.

As well as joint conservation projects in Cambodia, South America and Tanzania, by way of rescue and rehabilitation, particularly of rhinos and primates.

To purchase one of these amazing adoption boxes please visit www.totallywild.net or call 01303 234199.

For your chance to win Tugar, Djéké or Jara,

simply answer the following question: What are the names of the three animals that you can adopt in a box?

Send your answer on a postcard or sealed envelope with your name, age, address and phone number to Adopt in a Box comp, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is January 28, 2008.

1. This competition is not open to employees (and immediate families) of KOSmedia or any other company associated with it.

2. Entries which are altered, illegible or not in accordance with the rules will be disqualified.

3. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries lost or damaged. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

4. Entries must be received by noon on January 28, 2008 and names of the winners will be published in this newspaper. There is no cash alternative to the prize.

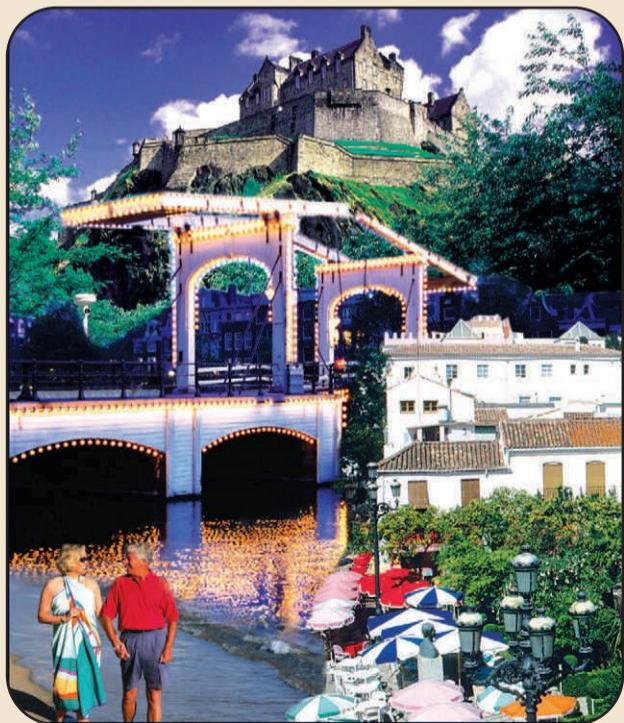
The Aspinall Foundation would like to keep readers updated with its work, including sending out the free magazine, 'WildCry'. Please write on your entry 'NO UPDATES' if you would prefer not to be updated.



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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

LIVELY UP YOURSELF

Lively female, 26, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

LOVE TO LAUGH

Full-time mum, 26, loves pubs, clubs, cinema, family days out, GSOH, likes socialising, relaxing, looking for honest, loyal, fun, romantic person who's a N/S. Box 400347

AMAZING ACE!

Confident female, 28, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, into most things in life, seeks genuine guy for friendship and more. Box 434229

MAJESTIC IN MARGATE

Single mum, 29, 5ft1, brown hair/blue eyes. I'm new to Margate, and I'm looking for a guy with a GSOH. I enjoy going out, socialising etc. Box 431105

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Black, beautiful, curly, single mum, 31, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman for friend/relationship. Box 432283

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ANIMAL LOVER

Honest, loyal, caring lady, 32, hard-working, 5ft8, medium build, likes eating out, spending time with friends/family, meeting new people, going to new places, seeking similar. Box 432586

HOPING FOR MORE

32yr old kind, warm female, 5'6", cuddly build, love walking my dog, cosy nights in, evenings out, WLTM tall, honest, trustworthy male for friendship. Box 430993

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

DRIVE ME CRAZY

Creative, happy, loving female, 32, 5ft, blonde/blue eyes, seeks kind, warm, sincere, patient male, with a car, to share my life. Box 392354

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Box 434374

SWEET CAROLINE

Caroline, 32, 5ft10, brown hair, likes going out, having fun, cinema, seeks outgoing male for friendship and more. Box 430933

RESCUE ME

Mum of 2 boys, 32, GSOH, easy-going, seeking an honest, genuine man. Get in touch soon! Box 432066

RING MY BELLE!

Hi, I'm Annabelle, 32, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim/divorced, 2 children, WLTM tall, local man, enjoys sport, shopping and relaxing. Tonbridge. Box 420609

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN?

Susan, 33, long hair, hazel eyes, tanned, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 429879

LESSONS IN LOVE

Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher. WLTM caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50, with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460

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GILLINGHAM GENTLEMAN

Laid-back, 40yr old single dad of 2, like country walks, going out, socialising, seeks female, GSOH, for friendship, possibly relationship. Gillingham Box 409834

HERE'S TO LOOKING FORWARD!
Hello you, if you're fed up with looking back at the past and wondering 'what if?' I'm 41 and I'm your man! Box 909888

NOT TO BE MISSED
42yr old, male, good health, good job, home/car, good friends and family, work hard, like to play when I can, down to earth.

LOTS OF SMILES
Warm, sincere, N/S, eligible, stimulating, male, 46, well groomed, OHAC, 5'10", slim/medium, settled but playful, seeks similar lady to share LTR and smiles. Box 924095

SHINE TOGETHER
Ordinary guy, 49, who likes the simple things in life. I smoke and don't drive. Looking for a partner to share things with. Box 901111

SHARE LIFE WITH ME
Gentle, honest male, 50, dark hair, 5'8", GSOH, looking for sincere, loving lady for a meaningful relationship. Try me. Gillingham. Box 901199

LIKE A LAUGH AND A JOKE
Young 51, good-looking, young-looking, N/S, GSOH, fit, romantic, solvent, caring, likes socialising in life; food/wine etc, for a meaningful relationship. Try me. Gillingham. Box 434593

PERFECT GENTLEMAN
Widower, 5ft10, 53, GSOH, outgoing, fairly fit, genuine, sincere, scrub up well, like clubs, music, travel, holidays, WLTM nice female, 50-58, with similar outlook. Box 434562

SITTINGBOURNE SUPREMACY
Young 53, 5ft9, likes pubs, restaurants, wine bars, various music, walks, seeking friendship, maybe leading to more. Sittingbourne. Box 429265

A GREAT CATCH
Sensitive, loyal, attentive, playful male, 51, enjoys gym, live music, cinema, meals out, walks, conversation, WLTM female, 45-65 for trust, friendship, possible relationship. Whitstable. Box 181246

ON GUARD
Gary, 55 years old, 6'3", large build, ex doorman, solvent, looking for someone to love and to have fun times with. Box 900009

LOVE TO BE OUTDOORS
56 year old male, 5ft9, easy-going, single, fairly shy, interests include sports, going out, walking, the countryside, not into nightclubs etc. Ashford Box 434606

CATCH A FALLING STAR
44-year-old man, interests include socialising, days out, keeping fit, days out, seeking a caring, honest female, to share fun times. Box 433992

ON YOUR MARKS...
Tall, fun-loving, good-looking former athlete, 44, lived in USA many years, likes music, sports cars, looking for dark haired or exotic lady, GSOH, for LTR. Ashford Box 430121

LOOKING FOR A KISS
Simple, laid-back, happy go lucky male, 56, GSOH, like most things in life, WLTM a fun female to share good things in life. Ashford Box 419677

CHEER ME UP
Hi, I'm a genuine, tall, good-looking, easy-going, retired, tactile male, 60, GSOH, looking for fun, intelligent lady, 45+, to share my life with. Box 434226

R U OUT THERE?
Hi my name's Steve, 62, own business, 5'10", blue eyes, short black hair, like cosy nights in, holidays, animals, seek female for love and romance. Box 423275

HYTHE & SEEK!
Slim, fit male, 63, 5ft10, N/S, blue eyes, own business, home, squirrel etc, many interests, WLTM kind-hearted lady, with GSOH. Box 901915

Men seeking men

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES?
I'm Paul, 40, genuine, down-to-earth, 5'9", GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, average build, likes movies, DIY, theatre, keeping fit, travelling, looking for young male, non-smoker. Box 423252

LOVE TRAIN
Rochester male, kind, genuine, 50yrs, likes steam railways, cooking, country walks, history, reading, looking for that someone special Box 429211

THE GOOD TIMES
61yr old easygoing guy, likes reading, the outdoors, keeping fit, looking for a similar, quiet person, N/S, with a positive outlook in life. Box 428136

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WRITTEN IN THE STARS
Capricorn female, 48, 5ft7, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, caring, animal lover, into DIY, sports, reading, WLTM some-
one in Maidstone area Box 434547

OH MANDY
Mandy, 38, lovely blonde, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, WLTM honest, romantic N/S man. Box 432639

LESSONS IN LOVE
Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher. WLTM caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50, with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460

TRY NEW THINGS
Mum of 1, I'm 5ft4, blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

R U THE 1?
Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge. Seeks caring, loyal male for friendship leading to more. Box 433107

MISSING MALE COMPANY
Chatty female, 36, 5ft4", single mum, blonde, slim, likes pubs, clubs, going out, having fun, seeks male for nights out and giggles. Rochester. Box 372889

FUN AND LAUGHS
Hi, I'm Joann, 39, 5'8", slim/med build, brown hair, green eyes, looking for male, with GSOH, for good times. Box 413126

AFRICAN ADVENTURE
African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 432632

BETTER DAYS
Sincere female, 35, 5ft3, brunette, likes the gym, staying in, seeks mixed race, tall male for friendship and more. Box 433256

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, pub days out, seeks male for friendship & more. Box 152862

TRUST MATTERS
Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoy travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901771

GET IT TOGETHER
Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899649

MADE FOR YOU
Hi, 35yr old bubbly, fun-loving female, GSOH, looking for friendship, maybe more. Box 430911

NEVER SAY NEVER
Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

NOT FOOTBALL CRAZY
Divorced, affectionate lady, 40, large build, 5'6", lovingly in cinema, looking for a thoughtful male to share good things in life, leading to LTR. Box 430322

TIME TO SETTLE DOWN
Romantic woman, 45, likes the good things in life, WLTM a special, good-looking man to complete the jigsaw

yourdoverblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Dover...



Forget those year-round sales and go for cashback

ANSWER me this please: How can there be sales on in the High Street 52 weeks a year?

It doesn't make sense. Nothing has a real price any more. There are just sale prices which are really the real price. And if it isn't on sale, it'll be two-for-one. Or buy one, get one free. What's that all about?

If you went to buy, say, a new house, and the estate agent said: "We're doing two for one at the moment," well, you'd smell a rather large rodent wouldn't you. If you're not convinced, picture yourself in a car showroom: "New car sir? You're in luck, buy one get one free." I don't think so.

But in the High Street women fall for it every day of the week. How many times have you heard your woman say: "I'm just nipping into town to do some shopping" and you nearly choke on your Pringles because she hasn't even unpacked the bags from the last trip.

Yet she beams: "Because there's a sale on." Well, there's always a sale on. But still she goes and still she comes back with another load of old toot that you never imagined, not even in

your wildest dreams, that you'd ever need.

There it is, with the till receipt stapled to the carrier bag shouting 'sucker'. Because it was a bargain. In the sales. As if owning one bread-making machine that has never been used isn't bad enough, imagine having two of them.

I don't want to exaggerate, but if the first bread maker has never been out of the box, what is the chance of it wearing out so it needs replacing with the second brand new one? There's a formula to work out probability, but as I'm no mathematician I'd say the chances are slim.

Yet there's your beloved, grinning from ear to ear because she's bought it for you and saved a small fortune in the process. Now the alarm bells are really ringing because if she's bought that to keep you happy, just imagine what she's gone and bought for herself. I've yet to see a woman with more than two feet but the way they buy shoes you'd think they were trying to kit out a centipede. And they need the dress to go with the shoes and the bag to go with the dress. None of it is quite the right size, but by heck it was all a bargain.

It'll be a few weeks before the full extent of

her bargain hunting becomes apparent but you'll stumble across it all in due course. In the bottom of the wardrobe. Under the bed. Don't be surprised to hear the loft ladder being put through its paces after a little trip to the shops.

But when you ask: "What's all this then?" the reply will bear no relation whatsoever to the contents of the bag you've just discovered. Her jaw will tighten like she's got tetanus. She isn't going to say she needed a new this, that or the other. She'll reply: "It was in the sales."

The way this is going, we'll soon have such a bad credit rating from the purchase of surplus to requirements kitchen paraphernalia (don't even mention ice-cream makers) that we won't be able to afford to put food on the table. But we'll be quids in and have enough unwanted clothes and accessories to stock a small boutique.

Think about it next time you see a 'sales' sign and be thankful that us blokes have the sense not to fall for it. We go for cashback.

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Dave Mairs, on **01303 817022**, or email

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TALK TIME

BRYN PARRY

The organiser of Help for Heroes tells Yourdover about the initiative to improve rehabilitation facilities for injured soldiers



Why did you start Help for Heroes?

Emma and I were privileged enough to meet the wounded at Selly Oak. We walked into a ward of thirty or so soldiers, sitting or lying on their beds, in T shirts and boxers and they were wounded. They were not lying there under white sheets like in the movies, they were on top of the bedclothes and they were missing arms and legs. One man was missing both his legs and his neck was in a brace. He was consoling the son of another soldier who had died in the incident in which he had nearly died; it was profoundly moving. We came home determined to do something, difficult not to want to do something when you meet these people who are so brave, modest and humorous. And so Help for Heroes was born.

The response has been amazing, are you surprised by the scale of public feeling this represents?

No. People are basically good, decent and caring. Sure, we get bound up in our lives, swept along with the current of jobs, families, stress, hassles. We have not become bad; we are just busy. But we have noticed an amazing generosity of spirit coming through Help for Heroes. By stressing that we are non political and non critical, we are enabling people to divorce their lack of support for the wars from their feelings of admiration of those who are fighting them. We can show our support, by donation, for those Servicemen and women who join the Armed Forces to serve their country and are wounded doing their duty. And this has been borne out by the donations flooding in. In nine weeks we have raised nearly £1.5 million! Surely that is unprecedented. The goodwill is infectious, the desire to make this work, to make a difference. People are enjoying catching this virus, this desire to help, to do something really great, to buck the system.

How did Shepherd Neame get involved?

I love the Spitfire advertising which is very much the serviceman's humour so I contacted Shepherd Neame, had a chat and then they flew with it!

YOUR LETTERS

Shining some light on town's failings

Aren't the Christmas lights in Folkestone town centre rubbish? It seems that every expense has been spared in giving people a festive time.

Why can't the town do anything properly?

If we are to celebrate the festive season – let's do it properly.

James Newsome
Folkestone

Lead thieves ought to be ashamed

Thieves stealing small amounts of lead are putting people's lives at risk – how thoughtless must they be?

To steal something is bad enough – but when it puts people in serious danger then it becomes positively disgusting.

Have these people no shame?

Sam Phillips
Dover

Running to help stop meningitis

Readers in the South who are keen to take part in an exciting new road race – the Bupa London 10,000 on May 26 – now have the chance to join in through some of Meningitis UK's Golden Bond places.

This new race will begin and end in St James Park and much of the course will follow the proposed routes of the 2012 Olympic Marathons. Independent places are now filled but runners still have the chance to take part in this great event through our



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Golden Bond places.

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ship pack.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Emily Knight
Community Fundraising Officer
Meningitis UK

Sad story seems worse at Christmas

It seems there is always a tragedy at Christmas and what could be worse than a mother and daughter dying – such as happened in Deal recently.

It was truly awful.

Diana Keene
Dover

I think it's climate short change

What is all this fuss about climate change?

The weather is the same as it's always been – rainy and wet.

We have had hot summers before and rainy ones like the last on. In my view it is just another way of raising money via taxes.

Bob Ellis
by email

Collar criminals not innocent drivers

We see so many police on the roads at this time of year – all looking to make an easy collar by targeting motorists.

So few people drink and drive these days as it is just not part of the culture of today.

Why not catch criminals?

Rosemary Jones
by email

Fight the urge to keep shopping

One of the most ridiculous things at this time of year is the sales.

We have just got over Christmas and we're bombarded with demands to buy more rubbish.

Chris Decker
by email

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Stained Glass	09/01/08 at 6.30pm	£90
Stitched Textiles	10/01/08 at 1.30pm	£84
Sculpture	10/01/08 at 6.30pm	£84
Buy/Sell on Internet	11/01/08 at 1pm	£20
Lacemaking	11/01/08 at 1.30pm	£69
Calligraphy	14/01/08 at 2pm	£69
History of Cinque Ports	18/01/08 at 10am	£35

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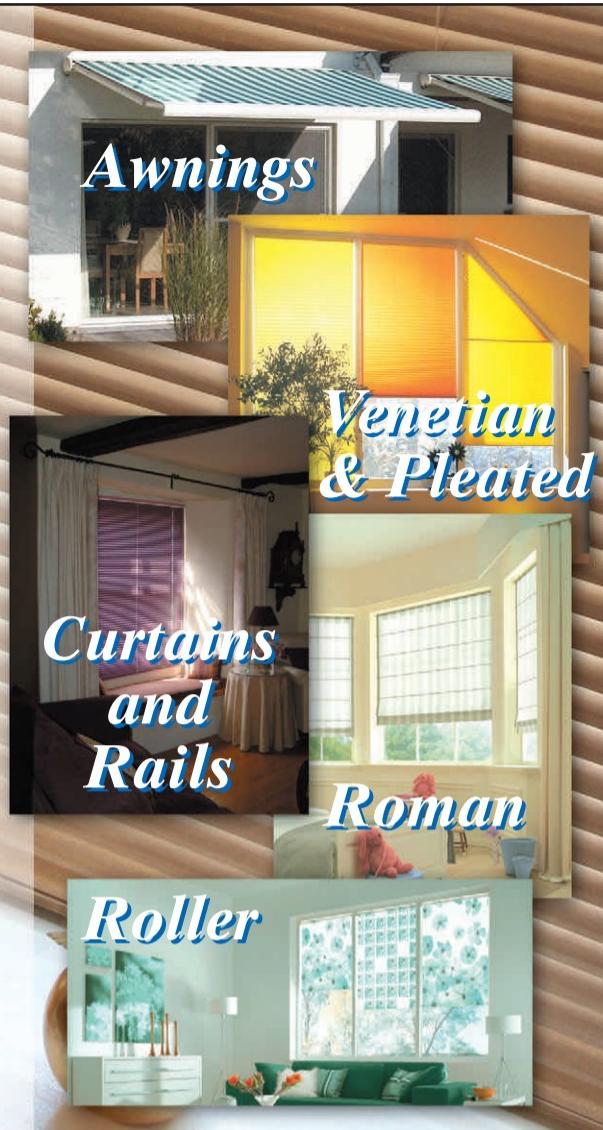
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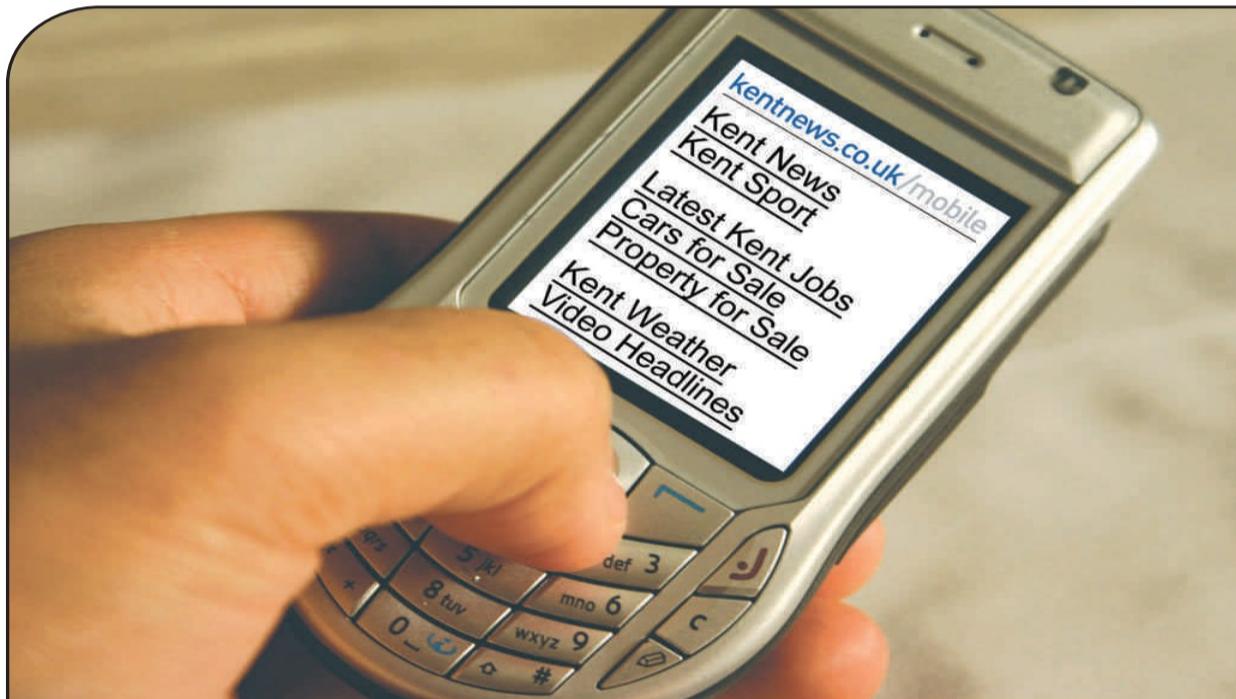
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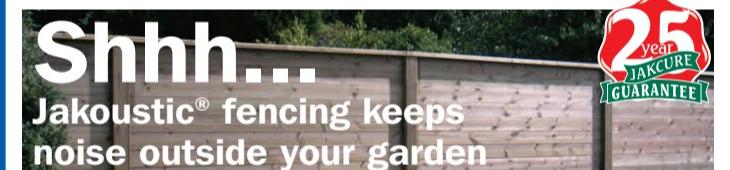
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JETHRO

Wednesday, January 9
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



ONE of the country's funniest storytellers will bring his tales of Cornish life to Kent next week. Jethro, the world's most hilarious Cornishman, is still selling out theatres across the country after 32 years in the business.

Hear about the latest adventures of Jethro and his legendary mate Denzel in the latest show.

Born in a small Cornish village, Jethro was destined for a career as a carpenter before he was discovered by the local operatic society.

With a decent singing voice, he began gigging in pubs, but started telling jokes when his voice dried up one night.

Soon audiences were calling for stories rather than songs – and Jethro had found his vocation.

Despite his tremendous success, he still lives on a farm in the West Country and runs a hugely popular comedy club in Devon.

The show, which contains adult humour, starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £18/£17.

To book, call the box office on 0870 4000 890 or visit the website at www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

NEW SEASON

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe



A GREAT new season of laughter, drama and music awaits at the Tower Theatre this spring.

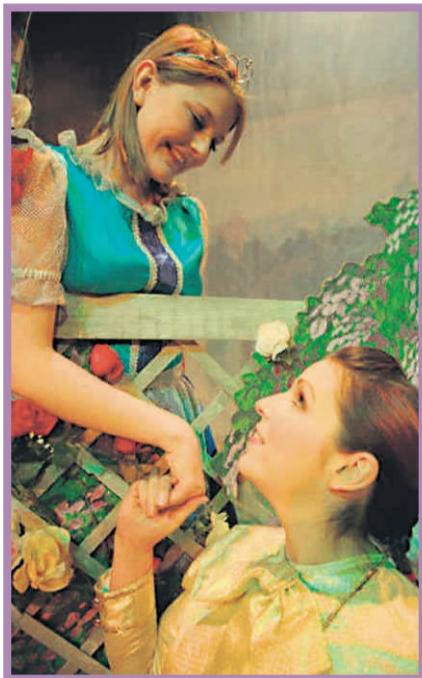
Classic family tale Beauty and the Beast gets the season underway in February, as the Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society (FHODS) presents its first pantomime at the theatre. The society promises a great story about the triumph of good over evil, with humour, music and clean family fun.

Hard-Hearted Hannah And Other Stories is part-gig, part-jukebox and part-theatre, with a different story every night accompanied by live Jug Band music.

Inspired by audience choices, the show could feature Hard-Hearted Hannah, the notorious vamp of Savannah, Smokey Joe or some other character from the American South.

The farcical goings-on in a French village near the German border will provide the action for A Bedful of Foreigners, while The King and I brings an unforgettable love story to life.

Find out more about this year's shows online at www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.



PANTOMIME FUN

Ongoing

Theatres across the county



FOR festive fun and some real Christmas spirit, nothing beats a good pantomime, so here's our round-up of all the great family shows on offer this Christmas:

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury: Aladdin.

Starring Shaun Williamson, Stephen Mulhern and Dave Lee. Ends on Sunday, January 20. Tickets £8.50-£21.50. Phone 01227 787787, or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Orchard Theatre, Dartford: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Wendi Peters. Ends Sunday, January 13. Tickets £13-£21. Phone 01322 220000, or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells: Cinderella. Starring Barney Harwood and Sarah Thomas. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10-£19.50. Phone 01892 530613 or 532072, or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone: Sleeping Beauty.

With Beau Brady and Kate Sheridan. Ends Sunday, January 6. Tickets from £6.95. Phone 01622 758611, or visit www.hazlitttheatre.co.uk.

Central Theatre, Chatham: Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. Starring Shane Lynch, Sheila Ferguson and Claire Huckle (left).

Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £12.50-£17.50. Phone 01634 338338, or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone: Jack and the Beanstalk. Starring Gabrielle Bradshaw and Claire Coultry. Ends on Sunday, January 6. Tickets £10, concessions available. Phone 0870 4000 890, or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk.

DOVER LEISURE

Swing along to Three Horseshoes for Vince

VINCE Martyn will be performing at The Three Horseshoes in Great Mongeham this week.

Based in the Deal area, Vince plays an eclectic mix of folky blues, country, reggae and swing.

The gig starts at the pub in Mongeham Road at 8.30pm on Friday, January 4.

For more details call 01304 375812.

Find out more about Vince online at www.myspace.com/vincemartyn.

David Evans' is talking art at visitor centre

DISCOVER the artists of the Newlyn School, 1880 to 1914, in a lecture on Monday, January 7.

David Evans' talk has been arranged by the Sandwich Evening Decorative and Fine Arts Society and will be held at the Dover Visitor Information Centre in Biggin Street. There will be coffee at 7.30pm before the lecture starts at 8pm.

New members and guests are always welcome. For more information, call membership secretary Jacqui Lanning on 01304 614866.

Louis Armstrong plays Dixie to New Orleans

FOR the best in traditional jazz, catch the live entertainment at Dover's Louis Armstrong this weekend.

Burt Butlers Jazz Pilgrims will be performing at the pub in Maison Dieu Road on Sunday, January 6, playing everything from Dixie to New Orleans.

For details about the gig, call the pub on 01304 204759. Jazz fans can find out more about the band by logging on to www.jazzpilgrims.co.uk.

Take flight with Peter and pals in town hall

ENJOY the adventures of Peter Pan and the gang in a funny pantomime at Dover Town Hall.

Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society is presenting the show, which will run from Tuesday, January 8 to Saturday, January 12. Tickets are priced from £5 to £8, with concessions for the first night.

To book, call the box office on 07722 053603. For more information call 01304 823581 or visit www.dods.org.uk.

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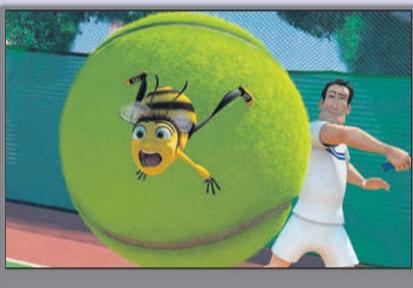
ON GENERAL RELEASE

ST TRINIANS (12A)



Girls just wanna have fun in Oliver Parker and Barnaby Thompson's revival of the naughty hockey stick-wielding minxes. St Trinian's is frothy and undemanding fun, interspersed with snappily edited montages set to songs by Shampoo, Sophie Ellis Bextor and Girls Aloud. Stars Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and the brilliant Russell Brand as Flash Harry.

BEE MOVIE (PG)



Co-written by Jerry Seinfeld, who also voices the lead character, computer-animated adventure Bee Movie is a fitfully amusing romp that peddles many obviously puns and gags: "A perfect report card - all bs!" Seinfeld brings his dry humour to his role while Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick and co offer lively support.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (U)



Alvin And The Chipmunks treats its audience like fools, keeping dialogue to a minimum the plot is slow. Kids might giggle at the sight of one chipmunk noisily breaking wind in Dave's face, but laughs are few and far between.

Taking the leap into adulthood

■ BY BEN FALK

ELFIN-like Natalie Portman is renowned for her intelligence as one of the few young actresses in Hollywood who not only went to college – but to Harvard.

She also has a reputation for being mature beyond her 26 years, an attitude honed growing up on movie sets.

When you meet Portman you immediately see she is articulate and well-spoken, informed and possessed of great beauty.

But blink your eyes and look again and you'll see a kid, a girl in her mid-20s who looks 16, and who peppers her conversation about poverty in Africa and her charity work with dozens of "likes" and "whatevers".

It's refreshing that in the battle-hardened world of Tinseltown, where tweens have business managers, she hasn't forfeited her youth, which is why she loved making new film Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium.

"I thought it was such a wonderful thing to put out into the world," she says of the film. "It's so positive and in such a unique way."

Unique indeed. Natalie is the shop assistant at a magical toy shop run by the impossibly-old Dustin Hoffman, who finally decides to pass on the business, Willy Wonka-style, to her.

"I could really relate to the character too," she admits.

"It was something I could really understand – that transition into adulthood."

Ah yes, the old passage from child actor to bona fide movie star. It's something that Natalie continues to grapple with, ever since making her debut aged 12 as a precocious wannabe hitwoman in Leon.

Her role as Queen Amidala in the second Star Wars trilogy straddled the divide between

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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youth and grown-up, but by semi-abandoning films and focusing on her studies, it seemed for a while that she wasn't interested in being a woman in Hollywood.

She has a degree in psychology, speaks fluent Hebrew and her work has appeared in several scientific journals. Nonetheless, she now says it would be tough to give up acting.

Portman doesn't discuss who's she dating or dated, but names like Jake Gyllenhaal, Hayden Christensen and Gael Garcia Bernal have all come up.

"From a young age, my parents taught me not to talk about private stuff because as soon as you start putting it out there, it's like fair game," she says.

But as for why she hasn't fallen into the trap of Britney and co, she adds: "I think the press branded me as one thing."

"They branded me as the good kid. But none of us are all good or all bad. The kids who



CHILD-LIKE: Natalie Portman enjoys being young

MR MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
 Certificate U

they're saying are party animals are not either.

"In some ways, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy – they follow you less, so they catch your mistakes less."

In other words, she's more than happy to continue without making it into the pages of Heat. Next up is period drama The Other Boleyn Girl, in which she plays doomed queen Anne Boleyn with Scarlett Johansson as her sister.

She's also currently shooting a remake of the Danish hit Brothers, alongside alleged former beau Gyllenhaal.

Prestigious, arty projects for sure, but to float Natalie's boat it's got to be something she is passionate about.

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Ski resort puts families first

■ BY HANNAH STEPHENSON

IT WAS a chilling thought taking my two children on their first skiing trip.

If just one of them didn't take kindly to the slopes I could face a week of tobogganing, ice-skating or languishing in over-priced mountain cafes trying to keep a little one entertained, while waiting for the others to come down the mountain.

However, as both my husband and I are keen skiers, we agreed to tread on thin ice for our first family ski-trip to Flaine, in the northern French Alps between Geneva and Chamonix.

It forms the centre of the spectacular Grand Massif, one of the largest linked ski areas in France, offering 265km of snowsports over 133 runs, with 78 ski lifts connecting Flaine with the neighbouring resorts of Samoens, Les Carroz d'Araches, Morillon and Sixt Fer à Cheval.

At 1,600m, Flaine's not quite as high as other French resorts, such as La Plagne or Courchevel 1850, but because it lies within a dramatic bowl, the snow remains longer than at other locations.

With 52 red runs, 52 blues, 15 greens and 14 blacks, there's enough skiing for all abilities, but the resort comes recommended as a child-friendly destination, with plenty of nursery slopes to keep the youngsters amused.

Flaine centre, it has to be said, is more concrete than picture postcard, having been purpose-built in the 1960s. But my seven and



LASTING: Being located in a bowl means the snow lasts for longer in the ski resort of Flaine

eight-year-old children didn't notice the architecture when they were having fun in the snow – and there was plenty of it.

We needn't have worried about them taking to the sport. Once we had hired the boots and skis the children couldn't wait to have a go, and as they could ski virtually from the door of

our hotel, we didn't need to walk far for the fun to begin.

There are several free lifts at the base of the resort, which accommodate two green runs ideal for beginners, so we didn't buy a ski pass for our children on the first day just in case they didn't like it.

But after an afternoon finding their snow legs, they were hooked and could soon tackle the chairlift with an adult.

Ski school is a must for young beginners – to learn the basics of snow-ploughing, distribution of weight on the skis and, most importantly, how to stop. They also make new friends in the lessons and it gives parents time to ski on their own.

However, during peak season ski school can be crowded, so we organised a couple of private lessons. A two-hour lesson for two children in Flaine with ESF cost 69 Euros (about £49) and was worth it – they progress quicker and have individual attention which can make it safer.

I met several families during my stay who had driven to Flaine, taking the Dover-Calais ferry and then sharing the eight-hour drive.

They chose to drive partly because it's cheaper than a package and partly because they were self-catering and could cram provisions for the week in the car.

The last thing I want to do at the end of a day on the slopes is cook, so we opted for a package holiday with Crystal at the Club Hotel Totem, where you can ski to the door.

For a three-star hotel, the food was fabulous. The menu changed daily and we were offered choices ranging from sea bass and hake, to venison, roast lamb and vegetarian stir fries.

FACT FILE:

Time difference	UK + one hour
Currency	Euros approx 1.4 to £1
Capital	Paris
Region airport	64.1 million
Language	French
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Alpine in mountain regions

Holiday details

Hannah Stephenson travelled courtesy of Crystal Ski, which offers seven nights' half-board plus afternoon tea, coffee and cake and free wine or soft drinks with evening meals at Club Hotel Le Totem from £1,248 for a family of four (two adults, two children) this winter, including return flights ex-Gatwick and transfers.

Adult prices begin at £479, with special rates for children (2-11), and up to three free child places per family. Regional departures from 10 UK airports from £10.

Supplement ex-Manchester is £26 and ex-Glasgow £39. Free ski and boot hire for one child for each adult pre-booking skis and boots. Six days ski/board hire costs £91 per child, £124 per adult. Lift passes £147 per adult, £107 per child, free passes for under-fives. Child care at Club Hotel Le Totem can be pre-booked. Crystal reservations: 0870 402 0293 or online at www.crystalfamilies.co.uk.



Happy New Year!

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE



AQUARIUS

(Jan 21 - Feb 19)

TRUST your instincts with regard to an unusual money-making venture. Your New Year resolution must be to make more use of your management skills and to push yourself forward in situations where you would prefer to take a back seat. Spending more time with friends will prove relaxing during the early part of 2008.



TAURUS

(Apr 21 - May 21)

YOUR expertise and experience makes you a desirable candidate for romance. A friend could set you up on a blind date. One thing is for sure: the chemistry between you will be fizzing. You'll be spending money as fast as it comes. While all of this financial activity makes you nervous, these expenditures are necessary to fuel future ventures.



LEO

(July 24 - Aug 23)

A BRILLIANT idea for conserving resources is worth following. Assuming a prominent position at work could also put extra money in your pocket, but it will involve added responsibility. Your love life will sizzle with excitement for the next month. If you've already got a partner, the two of you could be blessed with a child.



SCORPIO

(Oct 24 - Nov 22)

A FLIRTATIOUS conversation puts a spring in your step over the New Year celebrations. A group effort highlights your speaking or writing ability and you may be asked to act as the team's representative. More money for luxuries could come pouring in between now and late January. Take this opportunity to spoil yourself.



PISCES

(Feb 20 - Mar 20)

YOUR dynamism could attract the attention of an older intellectual. This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The two of you make an odd but compelling pair. Your creative abilities are the secret to your career success in early 2008. Your New Year resolution should be to launch a home improvement project before early March.



GEMINI

(May 22 - Jun 22)

YOU could get an exciting bonus as thanks for a job well done. Cutting the household budget will give you greater financial security. It's better to have reserves in the bank than luxuries in your living space. Your love life undergoes a blissful honeymoon. Your New Year resolution must be to take more exercise.



VIRGO

(Aug 24 - Sep 23)

A BUSINESS or romantic partner's unusual outlook gives you an idea for a creative project. This year brings an opportunity to work on a more prominent level and you will love to be acknowledged for your expertise. Spending more time at home gives you a wonderful feeling of security. Prepare for your career to take flight.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23 - Dec 21)

IDEAS for making your budget stretch farther will give you more freedom. Your star is on the rise so don't be surprised if you're given a raise or praise in recognition of your many and varied talents. If you're not happy in your current job, your New Year resolution should be to look around for a new position with more responsibility.



ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr 20)

THIS year looks potential packed. You know just how to get the best out of your team. One of your New Year resolutions must be to improve your management skills. Your schedule will be very full between now and early March. Answering phone calls, text messages, and emails will demand much of your attention.



CANCER

(Jun 23 - Jul 23)

THE chance to study an unusual subject could come via a business or romantic partner. The more you know, the more desirable you get on the job market. Falling in love with someone who is much older or younger is a distinct possibility this week. Promise yourself you will make the most of the opportunities coming your way in 2008.



LIBRA

(Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A CHANCE to work from home could triple your productivity. Take the helm of a domestic matter this week. Trust your instincts, particularly with regard to assigning responsibilities to relatives and roommates. Your New Year resolution must be not to accept second best from those around you.



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 - Jan 20)

TWO unrelated events could result in an exciting breakthrough. Teaming up with a respected expert could help you turn this brainstorm into a profitable business. Keep a love affair under wraps or meddling mischief makers will spoil the fun. Your New Year resolution should be to embark on an intense exercise regimen.



BY RUSSELL GRANT

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the digits 1 to 9

Last week's solutions

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yourtelevision

PICK OF THE WEEK

BBC one

THURSDAY: DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE (10.35pm): Bruce Willis teams up with Samuel L Jackson in the best of the Die Hard films. Fast paced action and laughs.

FRIDAY: JAM & JERUSALEM (8.30pm): Jennifer Saunders' star-studded gentle comedy sees Tash prepare for an assault on the Glastonbury Festival – without a ticket.

BBC TWO

THURSDAY: LEAD BALLOON (9.30pm): Jack Dee stars in the last of an excellent series with a call from Hollywood gives Rick something to think about.

FRIDAY: CULTURE SHOW SPECIAL - SIGUR ROS (11.35pm): Another chance to catch the Icelandic band and learn the stories behind their hypnotic tunes.

itv

THURSDAY: MIDSUMMER MURDERS (3pm): John Nettles' Barnaby investigates the murder of a wealthy landowner's wife in the village where they drop like flies.

FRIDAY: THE FUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET (8pm): Matthew Kelly talks to stars of Coronation Street and looks back at some of their favourite scenes.

4

THURSDAY: THE KIDNAPPING OF ELIZABETH SMART (10pm): Documentary on the 14-year-old kidnapped for nine months from Salt Lake City and discovered with a man who claimed to be the Messiah.

FRIDAY: GREATEST COMEDY CATCHPHRASES (9pm): Three hour romp through the nation's favourite comedy quips.

five

THURSDAY: GET CARTER (10pm): Michael Caine stars in the classic gangster thriller from 1971.

FRIDAY: WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN (8pm): Pure brute force on show in the final of the contest in Anaheim, California. Presented by Martin Bayfield.

Has the time come to evict reality TV?

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

IT SEEMS like a lifetime ago, but it was a mere 12 months since Jade Goody's fragile career as a celebrity dimwit exploded amid the racism row of *Celebrity Big Brother*.

Along with the equally dumb Jo O'Meara (ex-S Club 7) and Danielle Lloyd (ex-Miss Great Britain), their bullying of Bollywood's Shilpa Shetty sparked headlines worldwide.

And while Channel 4 bosses initially rubbed their hands with glee at the increase in viewing figures, they quickly found those same hands holding their heads in sorrow as sponsors jumped ship and the annual New Year goose decided it was not going to lay its golden egg in 2008.

But with *Celebrity Big Brother* 2008 pulled altogether in the wake of the media furore which followed last year's series, Channel 4 have opted to see in the New Year with yet another twist on its money-making reality theme. Enter *Celebrity Hijack*.

The house is still there. The housemates will be thrown in. A cash pot of £50,000 on offer. But rather than the all-singing, all-dancing version going out on prime time, *Celebrity Hijack* will be a more muted affair.

While the opening show will be on tomorrow on Channel 4, it will then become the property of the channel's digital sister station E4.

A sign TV bosses are no longer convinced of the clout the Big Brother concept still packs? Or simply testing the water for yet another mainstream assault on reality TV addicts? As ever, the power will lie with the viewer...after all, you decide whether to watch it or not.

In a nutshell, *Celebrity Hijack* will drop into



WATCHING THEM: It was just a year ago that Jade Goody and friends shocked the world with their harsh treatment of Shilpa Shetty on *Celebrity Big Brother*

the house 'gifted' young individuals, all aged between 18 and 21 (gifted with intelligence or the ability to show-off, remains, as yet, unclear). Then a host of celebrities will take turns to be Big Brother, setting tasks and causing, so the details of the show boast, mischief with the inmates. They will even be let loose in the behind-the-mirrors camera runs. A nation can hardly wait.

Dermot O'Leary – fresh from his underwhelming role as X Factor host – will host the live opening show. The series will be his Big Brother swansong after confirming he is to present Big Brother's Little Brother no more.

In truth, he was once a breath of fresh air – but as the housemates for the main show became thicker and thicker in each passing series, so his light dimmed. The words 'sow' and 'silk ear' spring to mind.

His nightly 7.30pm E4 slot for the new show will allow him one last chance to try and recapture past glories before he departs.

But at stake is something far more important: the public's view on reality TV.

Surely now, after eight years of it, we have had enough?

The crowning of X Factor winner Leon, and Big Brother's, er, can't even remember his name, underlined once and for all that our apparently endless appetite for the format is surely over. They take 'forgettable' to a whole new stratosphere. We have gorged at its table, been violently sick, and now never want to see another one again.

It's cheap and cheerful telly – no doubt. And the money generated by callers having their say has long since injected huge sums into the bottom line of the TV companies involved. But with each show bringing with it new controversies over phone votes, the trust of the viewer is diminishing rapidly. Not to mention the fact the talent these shows are unearthing really is worthy of picking up a dictionary and checking the true definition of the word.

In truth, hopes of relegating such shows to digital channels – such as the case with *Celebrity Hijack* – will not make financial sense; they rely too much on as wide an audience as possible in the hope a decent fraction pick up the phone.

Perhaps it will be genuine viewer power – via the use of the off switch – which will evict them all from our schedules.

CELEBRITY HIJACK

Channel 4, January 3, then E4 nightly

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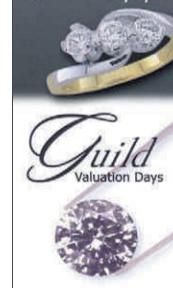
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IT MIGHT not have made Christmas number one like the band was hoping, but the Trouser Trumpet's effort is still definitely worth a look.

All I need for Christmas is You is the Trumpet's latest song, and has been downloaded numerous times from the band's website www.trousertrumpets.co.uk.

Performing regularly around Kent, including the Canterbury Festival in October, the Trumpets are a charismatic act who never fail to pull a crowd.

A multi-instrumental blend of The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, Spike Jones, Frank Zappa and Ian Dury, you can see them here on Yourkenttv, performing in Canterbury last year.

YOU can upload your own favourite video, your band, or any music that you would like to share by logging on at Yourkenttv.co.uk.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR BAND ON THIS PAGE OR HAVE A GIG YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIST, SIMPLY LOG ON @ yourkenttv.co.uk AND FOLLOW THE EASY-TO-USE INSTRUCTIONS

LIVE AND LOUD



INVICTA'S XMAS FACTOR: A clip from Invicta FM's Xmas Factor 2007 final choir carol concert, held at the Dockside Outlet in Chatham on Monday, December 17, 2007.



PROTEST: Hey Eddie is an anti-war protest song that has been downloaded around the world, drawing attention to the alledged lack of care for physically and mentally wounded soldiers.

2min 12sec @ 391kps

Full screen



C'MON ZYGO: Led Zygo, Kent's newest Led Zeppelin tribute band cover one of their idols' lesser known efforts. Eddie Cochrane's C'mon Everybody, covered by Led Zeppelin in their early days.

2min 12sec @ 391kps

Full screen



SOUL BROTHER: Rik Waller's Mighty Soul Band play a Winter Warmer at the Westgate Pavilion as a rehearsal for their tour. This is a selection of highlights from the show.

2min 12sec @ 391kps

Full screen

LOCAL TV ONLINE

music supplied by

Yerk

www.yerk.co.uk
airecords.com

2min 12sec @ 391kps

Full screen

TUNE IN: Not strictly a music video... there's not a lot happening if we're honest, but you can still listen to the tune, created by Kent electronic artist, Yerk AKA Nick Burkinyoung.



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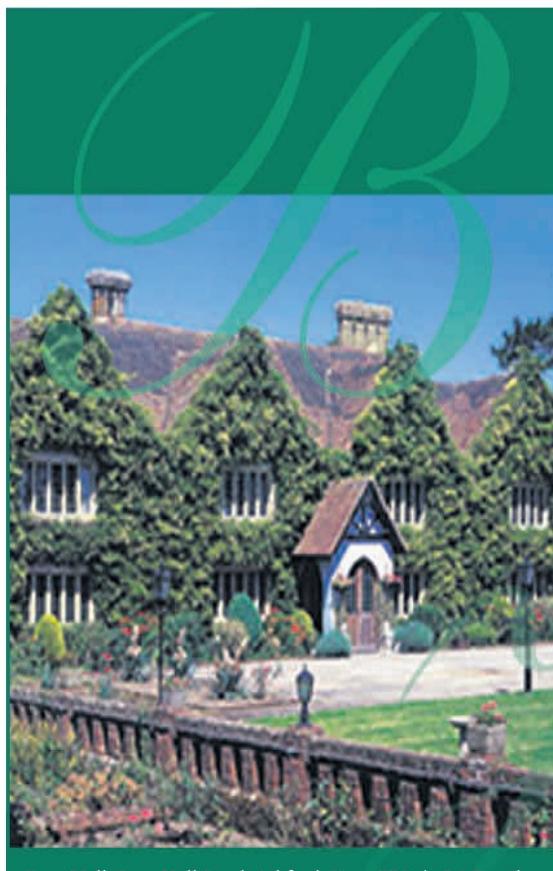
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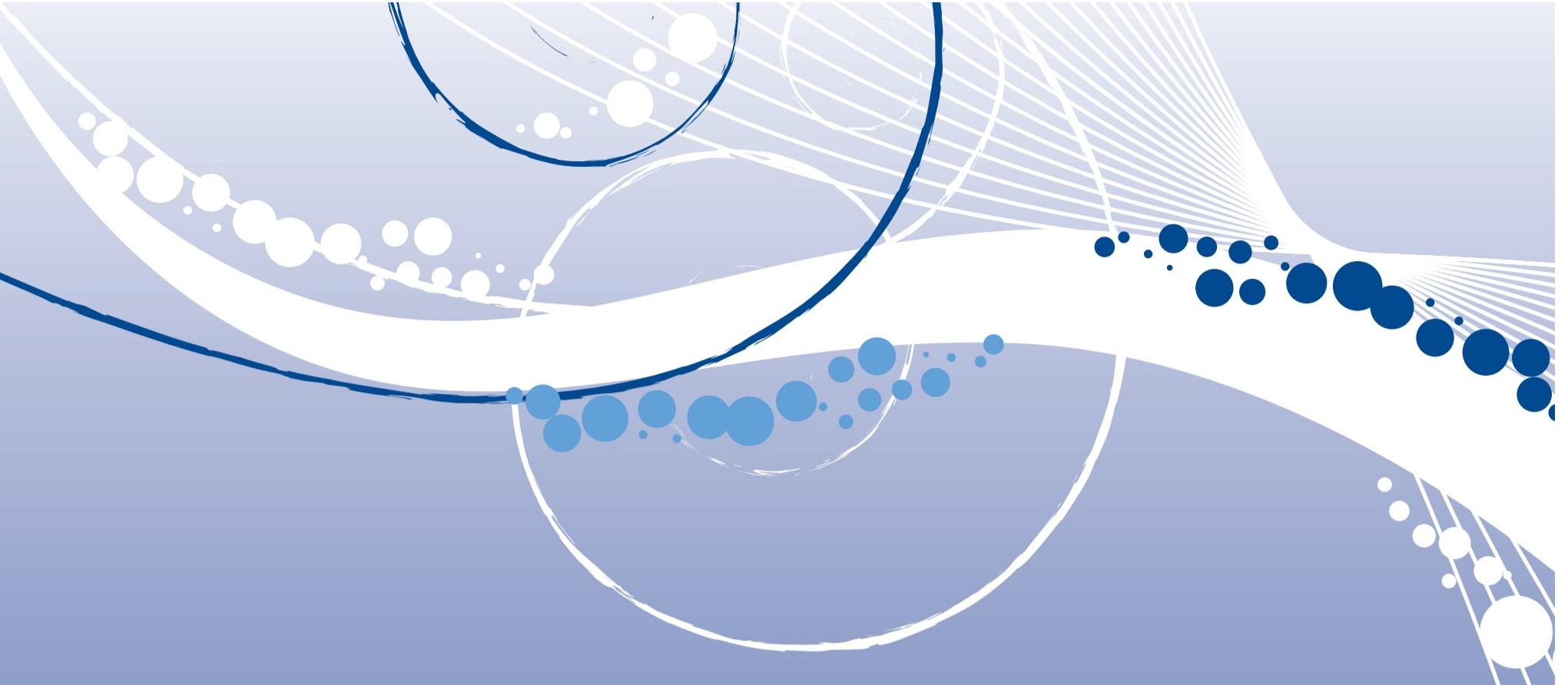
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PROPERTY NEWS

Protect yourself against burglars

WHILE you splash out on gifts for loved ones this year, security experts are warning householders to take extra care to prevent falling victim to burglars.

Although such crimes are few and far between, Home Office statistics show Kent is one of the UK's top 10 regions most likely to be affected by burglary – with research suggesting you're more likely to be burgled just after Christmas.

Jill Willis, market development manager at Norwich Union Insurance, said: "Christmas is a time to relax and catch up with friends and relatives, but the threat of burglary during this period can't be ignored."

"Our research shows that three quarters of British people are not taking any extra care to protect their homes and property. By taking a few simple steps, homeowners can help to avoid the trauma burglaries cause."

Key recommendations include keeping presents out of view from opportunist thieves, asking trusted neighbours to keep an eye on your property, using timer switches for lights, and not forgetting to double-check all windows and doors before you leave the house.

Get on the ladder by buying with a buddy

MAKING those first steps onto the property ladder can be a tricky business, especially with house price to income ratios now higher than ever.

One solution is to join forces with a friend and pool your resources to buy a property together and share the monthly outgoings.

The concept of 'buying with a buddy' is becoming increasingly common and websites have sprung up to help would-be home owners pair up with like-minded individuals.

Caron Hutchins, sales manager for Redrow Homes (Eastern), says: "A new home is great for first time buyers as it comes with a 10-year Buildmark warranty and requires little or no maintenance and none of the renovation or repair that goes with buying a run-down terrace. New homes also tend to be more energy efficient, which makes for fewer arguments over the heating bills."



Picture: KAP

BUILD ON IT: The coming year looks set to be the perfect time to sell your land, as developers aim to meet the targets for affordable, eco-friendly and family homes

Land yourself a good deal on your open space

THE new home market is set for an upturn next year – with eco-friendly homes playing a key role in driving the sector upwards, according to property experts.

And the role of housing associations in snapping up land to build much-needed affordable housing in the county is set to provide more choice for those looking to snap up a new-build property.

This year has seen prices for new homes continue to rise and the market remained buoyant through the summer before experiencing a slow down towards the end of the year.

On the supply side, due to a dwindling stock of good brownfield sites available for building, there has continued to be fierce competition

■ BY CHRIS THOMSON

between developers over sites, which in turn means land prices have stayed strong.

According to chiefs at RPC Land and New Homes, the situation should shift during 2008.

Managing director, Peter Randall, said: "This year the market has been quite tough for developers, but they are still very hungry for land and desperate to purchase good sites and that will continue into 2008 and beyond.

"This year has seen the new homes market start well and then slow down. I expect that to change around in 2008, with perhaps a slow start followed by an upturn later in the year.

I believe next year we will see more housing associations involved with developments in Kent to meet affordable housing numbers and

I think eco-friendly developments will also become more common.

"There is also a growing trend in some parts of the county for planners to look for more family housing, reversing the trend over the past few years for higher density developments such as flats. I would expect developers to follow suit and look to provide more two, three and four-bedroom properties.

"With competition still strong over sites for development, land prices look set to be maintained. This, coupled with the axing of tax exemptions on empty commercial premises, means 2008 could be a wise time to cash in on land for development. It's best to talk to an expert to get the best design for a plot."

RPC Land has offices at Dartford, Chatham, Maidstone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Haywards Heath.

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WHITFIELD £230,000

DOVER OFFICE BDP02647

- Detached bungalow
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- No Chain



HAWKINGE £127,500

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FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02328

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- OSP
- West End



WHITFIELD £219,995

DOVER OFFICE BDP02552

- 3 bed detached
- No Chain
- Garage



DOVER £315,000

DOVER OFFICE BDP02117

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FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02256

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- Share Freehold
- No Chain



FOLKESTONE £149,950

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02416

- Lovely Victorian Home
- Good Condition
- Large Rear Garden



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FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02405

- Large Four Bed Family Home
- Two Reception
- Good Location

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CAPLE LE FERNE OFFICE HFP02408

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- Plenty Of Rooms
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FOLKESTONE HFP02409

FOLKESTONE OFFICE HFP02409

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- Two Receptions
- Good Condition



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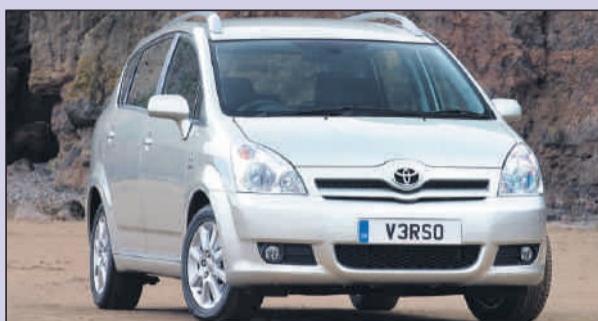
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

TOYOTA VERSO



TOYOTA quickly realised its previous five-seat Corolla Verso was just not cutting it in a growing market for mid-sized MPVs and axed it in favour of the current seven-seat version after just two years – an awesome demonstration of the Japanese giant's determination and production powers. Now known simply as the Verso, the result is one of the best MPVs in the class: stylish, highly flexible, generously equipped and featuring some good engines, plus built-in Toyota reliability and quality.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MIDI MPVs

VAUXHALL pioneered a new people carrier segment with the original Zafira – the midi seven-seater. The Zafira was handier than a full-size people carrier like the Ford Galaxy or Renault Espace yet able to carry two more people – likely to be kids though – than a standard compact MPV such as the Renault Scenic. With all rear seats folding flat to the floor it could also better an estate car and challenge a van for load-lugging capacity. No wonder it soon spawned imitators such as the two excellent rivals also featured here.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA



YOU could almost hear the motor industry gasp when the Zafira was unveiled. OK, the styling was never exciting, but Vauxhall's motoring equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife came with brilliant flexibility as standard thanks to the Flex7 system that allowed the rear two rows of seats to be folded flat into the floor, to create various permutations or a massive load area. The original has been replaced by an even better model, but it is still a star buy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VW TOURAN



BEWARE bargain priced Tourans – these are usually examples with just five seats rather than the more usual seven, an asset which helps Tourans to have one of the slowest depreciation rates in the MPV sector. The Touran is a good drive for a people carrier, refined and well-built to VW's high standards even if the styling inside and outside is a little bit bland. The car counters this minor gripe through some excellent engines including VW's renowned turbodiesels.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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KIA PICANTO GS 5DR 1.0 PAS C/LOCKING PAS SILVER		19000	06\05	£4,495
FORD FIESTA LX 1.4 5DR A/C PAS	MET\BLUE	30000	09\02	£4,595
PEUGEOT 206 LX 1.4 A/C 5DR PAS	MET\GREEN	63000	12\01	£3,995
SEAT AROSA 1.0 S PAS C/LOCKING	MINT GREEN	34000	12\02	£3,895
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HONDA ACCORD 2 LIT VTEC SE 5DR PAS	SILVER	55000	04\01	£3,995
FORD KA 1.3 PAS	RED	19000	03\04	£3,995
FORD FIESTA FIREFLY 1.25 PAS	RED	11000	09\04	£5,295
ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 3 PAS A/C 5DR	MET\BLUE	16000	05\03	£3,995
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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Kalos and Lacetti £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £199. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. The savings are against current MRP and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 13th January 2008. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km). Matiz 1.0 SE: Urban – 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban – 60.1 (4.7), Combined – 50.4 (5.6). CO₂ emissions 139g/km. Kalos 1.2 S: Urban – 33.2 (8.5), Extra-urban – 54.3 (5.2), Combined – 44.1 (6.4). CO₂ emissions 153g/km. Lacetti 1.6 SX: Urban – 30.7 (9.2), Extra-urban – 47.8 (5.9), Combined – 39.7 (7.1). CO₂ emissions 178g/km.

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- MARKETING, ADVERTISING

- MOTOR TRADE, DRIVER
- NOT FOR PROFIT, CHARITIES
- NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK
- OTHER
- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
- PR, MEDIA, JOURNALISM
- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 38-43

Pitts Wilson Electrical

Experienced Fire Alarm Service Engineer

Required to service and maintain systems within retail outlets in the South East area.

To apply please call 01274 771100 or email gary.hill@pwe-elec.com

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NEW YEAR NEW CAREER?

WANTED - CAR SALES EXECUTIVES

We have vacancies for New and Used Car Sales Executives at our Canterbury and Dover dealerships. You must be well organised, customer focused, self-motivated with the desire to be part of one of Kents largest Vauxhall retailers. In return we offer a highly competitive package including company car, comprehensive in-house training programme and above all the opportunity to work for one of the top dealerships in the South East.

What we are looking for... We want people who want to succeed, people who are open minded, who enjoy learning new skills and will be committed to our customers. Applicants will ideally have experience in retail sales with a full driving licence.

NEW CAR SALES CONTROLLER - Canterbury

Answering to the New Car Sales Manager this demanding role is to lead the sales team into achieving all key performance areas and effectively sell finance and insurance to our customers. You must be self-motivated, energetic and will need a proven track sales record and be highly numerate, this position would suit a senior sales person wishing to progress their career to the next level. Full training will be provided as part of our in-house training programme.

PART-TIME TELEPHONE RECEPTIONISTS - Broadstairs & Canterbury

We require experienced and efficient people to run our busy reception area at our Broadstairs and Canterbury dealerships. You will be required to deal with all general reception enquiries, operate a busy switchboard and meet and greet new and existing clients. There will also be some typing and filing work.

We have 2 part-time vacancies available at Broadstairs – 8.30am to 6.00pm Saturdays (one hour for lunch) and 1.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Fridays. Saturdays 8.30am to 6pm at Canterbury.

FULLY QUALIFIED MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN - Broadstairs

We also have a vacancy for a fully qualified motor vehicle technician at our Broadstairs dealership. If you're able to demonstrate previous high levels of performance and you're looking for your skills to be appreciated, contact us now! We can provide the training and the career prospects that you're looking for!

What we are looking for... We want people who want to succeed, people who are open minded, who enjoy learning new skills and will be committed to our customers.

It's your career don't waste it!! Call Lucy now for an application form on 01227 710333 or email your CV to lsauders@perrys.co.uk.

PERRYS
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Opening soon...

Mecca Thanet

Unit 46, Westwood Cross, Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF

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- ★ Be a part of a fun and exciting Team
- ★ Due to open early 2008

Team Members and Senior Team Members

Full and part time positions, working evenings and weekends
Starting Rate £5.59 per hour

Open day at Ramsgate Job Centre

Saturday 5th January 2008, from 10am to 3pm

Ring 01843 258 732 for further details.

www.meccabingo.com

MEDWAY TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Teacher Warren Wood Community Primary School and Language Unit

Specialist teacher (mixed year 3/4/5 class)

Salary: MPS/UPS

Full Time and fixed term contract

Required From: 21 April 2008

Closing date: 7 January 2008

To apply/more information

Kerry Trim, Assistant Headteacher Warren Wood community Primary School and language unit

Arethusa Road

Rochester

Kent ME1 2UR

Telephone - (01634) 337227

Email trimk001@medway.org.uk

Hoo St Werburgh Primary School & Marlborough Centre

KS2 Teacher

Salary: MPS/UPS

Full or part time and temporary

Term of contract: To cover maternity leave

Required From: January 2008

Closing date: 3 January 2008

To apply/more information

Jo Trickett, Headteacher Hoo St Werburgh Primary school & Marlborough Centre

Pottery Road

Hoo

Rochester

Kent ME3 9BS
Telephone - (01634) 338040
Email office@hoo-st-werburgh.medway.sch.uk

Thames View Junior School

KS2 Teacher

Salary: MPS/UPS

Part time and temporary

Required From: 25 February 2008

Closing date: 10 January 2008

To apply/more information

Linda Lowrey, Headteacher

Thames View Junior School

Bloors Lane

Rainham

Gillingham

Kent ME8 7DX

Telephone - (01634) 232540

Email office@thamesview-jun.medway.sch.uk

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Rivermead

Teacher of general subjects

Salary: MPS + SEN allowance (£1818)

Full Time and permanent

Required From: to be confirmed

Closing date: 15 January 2008

To apply/more information

Mrs Karen Watkin, Office Manager

Rivermead School

Forge Lane

Gillingham

Kent ME7 1UG

Telephone - (01634) 338348

Email office@rivermead.medway.sch.uk

www.medway.gov.uk/teachingcareers

Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check



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3-5 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone
Kent CT20 2SH

SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

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SALARY £14,197 to £15,153
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This is a new role to provide administrative and office support for an established and expanding community organisation.

Based in Folkestone, you will work with the Service Co-ordinator to maintain a high standard of service to our volunteers and service users.

As well as sound computer and organisational skills, you will need excellent communication skills and preferably experience of working with the general public.

Please do contact us on 01303 227296 or shepwaymed@lineone.net for a full job description and application form.



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Section Manager Equine, Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Post ref: 08/08/KOS



Temporary Train to Gain Manager

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,648 per annum.

Fixed term post for up to 18 months.

Post Ref: 08/09/KOS



Lecturer Motor Vehicle

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 07/29/KOS



Lecturer Health & Social Care

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 05/39/KOS



Lecturer Beauty Therapy

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/05/KOS



Key Skills Lecturer – Travel & Tourism

22.2 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 06/09/KOS



Lecturer History

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 00/131/KOS



Lecturer Dyslexia/Dyscalculia

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 06/210/KOS



Lecturer Key Skills

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/10/KOS



Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS



Floristry

Post Ref: S/FL/KOS



Equine Studies

Post Ref: S/EQ



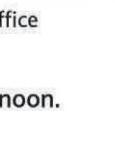
Health & Social Care

Post Ref: S/HSC/KOS



Early Years

Post Ref: S/EY/KOS



Health & Social Care (with a maternity nurse background)

Post Ref: S/MAT/KOS



HE Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

HND Music Technology

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS



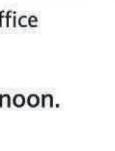
HND Music Performance

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS



BA (Hons) Creative Music Production & Technology

Post Ref: S/HE/KOS



For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Supply NVQ Assessor Health & Social Care

Various hours available. Salary range £17,640 – £25,294 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S./NVQ/KOS



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Senior Nursery Officer – Education and Curriculum

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £16,284 per annum.

Post Ref: 08/04/KOS



Investing in jobs and skills

Curriculum Support Assistant Music

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285

pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/03/KOS



A Recognised Quality Programme

Curriculum Support Assistant – Beauty

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,285

pro rata per annum.

Post ref: 04/118/KOS



The Basic Skills Agency

Learning Support – Independent Living & Leisure Skills

37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,284

pro rata per annum. One Year fixed term post

Post Ref: 07/71/KOS



CENTRE OF VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TRAVEL & TOURISM

Resource Assistant/Placement Organiser

18.5 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: RA17/KOS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Central Administrator

37 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 06/157/KOS



Action for Business Colleges

Central Administrator

27 hrs per week. Salary starting from £14,464 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 07/48/KOS



matrix standards for information technology

Supply Trainer Demonstrator Motor Vehicle

Various hours available. Salary starting from £18,285 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/TD/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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Sheppey College

Lecturer Construction – Wood Occupations (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 per annum.

Post Ref: 05/60/KOS

Lecturer Hairdressing (Sheppey College)

14.8 hrs per week, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: 08/07/KOS

Supply Lecturers (Sheppey College) are required in the following areas:

Administration

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Admin/KOS

Cache

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Cache/KOS

Construction

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/Con/KOS

Basic Skills (at Canterbury and Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: S/BS/KOS

Text & Word Processing

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/TWP/KOS

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College, a leading Higher Education and Further Education College. We are looking for motivated people to join our team and help us change lives for the better and achieve our goal of being one of the best colleges by 2010.

Supported Learning

Various hours available, salary range £17,729 – £25,420 pro rata per annum.

Post Ref: SH/SL/KOS

Caretaker (Sheppey College)

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,464 per annum.

Post Ref: 04/03/KOS

Supply Learning Support – (Sheppey College)

Various hours available, salary starting from £16,284 pro rata per annum. Please specify your area/s of expertise in your application form.

Beauty

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Childcare

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

Supported Learning

Post Ref: SH/LS/KOS

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is Friday 18 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Sports Hall and Gym at Canterbury Campus
- Staff Discount Scheme
- Proximity to Main bus/train Stations
- Close to City Centre

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Estate & Building Services Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £44,149 - £49,875 per annum Post ref: EBSM1/KoS

Interview Date: Tuesday 22 January 2008.

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to ensure that College sites are fully utilised, maintained and enhanced, to provide an optimum learning and working environment for all users. You will have the opportunity to produce, update and develop the College's property and accommodation strategies, and will prepare maintenance and small buildings works programmes and schedules. You will lead on health and safety strategy and policy, and ensure the provision and maintenance of effective fire precautions, security systems and safety arrangements. Assisting the Director of Finance and Corporate Services in the preparation of relevant capital and revenue budgets, you will also manage the department's budgets and service contracts, and line manage the Estates team. You will develop and manage the College's energy management policy, advise on the use of professional services in connection with estates services, and will take responsibility for buildings & grounds maintenance and security for the insurance of the premises and assets.

To be successful, you will have a relevant professional qualification such as RICS, RIBA, MBIFM, or MIMechE, as well as professional qualifications in the area of Estates Management. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate considerable and successful estates management experience. You will have demonstrable experience of managing change with a commitment to continuous improvement, as well as having direct experience of line managing staff, budgets and resource management.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, have a high level of interpersonal skills and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Staff discount scheme



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Marketing and Communications Manager

37 hrs per week, salary: £36,188 per annum Post Ref: 0806/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the college's marketing and communications, to establish, lead and manage a multi-disciplinary marketing and communications team; providing strategic vision and direction to ensure that the college's goals are met.

You will lead in the development, implementation and evaluation of a range of communications and marketing projects including events, campaigns and consultations.

The strategy you develop will be informed by thorough market and competitor research. You will be responsible for analysing and reporting to the Senior Management Team on the findings of this research and on campaign effectiveness and progress against budget and targets.

The college's internal communications are a key element of this role as the college strives to "Be the best college in the South East". Your team will commission, write, edit, proof read and coordinate internal and external publications, leaflets and promotional materials. Your experience of working with local, regional and national media will be essential in building and communicating the college's brand values and identity through a proactive media and public relations strategy.

This post is a senior role within the college structure and you will be required to provide reputation management advice and media advice to senior managers.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, and experience of leading a marketing and communications team.

You will possess a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

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- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Sports Hall and Gym
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CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGER

37 hrs per week, salary: c£70,000 per annum Post ref: CPM1/KoS

We are seeking an experienced and talented individual to take responsibility for the strategic and general management of the redevelopment project, ensuring that it is delivered on time, within budget, and in accordance with the design brief and targets.

Leading the project on behalf of the College, you will direct, co-ordinate and supervise the project in association with the College's Senior Management Team, Project Team and consultants.

Responsible for ensuring that the overall project programme can be approved by the Corporation and all activities are completed within defined parameters, you will also prepare the Estates Working Party papers in liaison with the Principal and the Clerk to the Corporation.

You will recommend and secure approval for any modifications of variation to the agreed brief, and will advise the Corporation on overall risk and exposure through the Capital programme.

You will be responsible for all aspects of financial management in liaison with the College's Director of Finance and Corporate Services, including monitoring of cashflow against College plans, all forms of asset management, including tenders, procurement and leasing options, and achieving best value in line with LSC guidelines.

To be successful, you will have a closely relevant professional qualification, such as a Postgraduate qualification in project management, or equivalent experience of public sector construction. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate detailed understanding of the financial and contractual management of construction projects, and the ability to think strategically to lead and advocate on complex projects. You will also have negotiation skills, and the ability to work to deadlines and to lead and motivate a team.

Computer literate, with analytical & evaluation skills, you will have the ability to assess the future financial viability of projects and development opportunities, a high level of communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to influence and work with colleagues across the College.

You will also have a commitment to educational and training values, and to Equal Opportunities.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

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Faculty Head Engineering & Construction

37 hrs per week, salary no less than £40,622 per annum Post Ref: FHEC1/KoS

We are seeking an individual of the highest calibre to help achieve our goal of being one of the best FE College by 2010.

You will be responsible for the operational delivery of the strategic plan within the Engineering & Construction Faculty, and will ensure a quality provision and suitable curriculum development to aid the learner experience. You will also play a key role in contributing to the development of the College's strategic & development plans, and will lead and inspire a team of Section Managers.

As a College we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of both young people and vulnerable adults, and the promotion of this will form an integral part of your role.

You will have significant experience in education leadership and people management, and will have the leadership skills to set the highest possible standards, both within your Faculty and throughout the College.

In return, we will offer you the rewards and support you would expect at such a senior level.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above post is 15 January 2008 at 12 noon.

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- Generous Holiday Allowance

- Sports Hall and Gym
- Close to City Centre

- Proximity to main bus/train stations
- Staff discount scheme



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Canterbury Christ Church University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent for the public services - notably teacher training, policing, health and social care - and is a significant provider of programmes in a wide range of academic and professional areas.

CANTERBURY CAMPUS

Computing Services

Computer Liaison Officer (Two Posts)

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

Following a restructure of our Computing Services Department, we're seeking two additional experienced professionals to join the Computing Liaison Team. As part of this small team, you'll proactively develop the department's relationship with the faculties - you'll also identify the potential benefits of IT, help to establish business cases, and meet the needs of key stakeholders in this field.

Educated to degree level, you'll combine project management experience with the proven ability to enable the interaction of IT and business operation. It's also important that you are an excellent communicator who is comfortable liaising at all levels of our organisation. A specific background in IT support would be an advantage, as would experience of developing service level agreements. Ref: CLO/CS/77.

Interview date: 21 & 22 February 2008.

Web Systems Administrator/ Programmer

**£27,466 to £29,139 per annum (A higher salary
may be available for an exceptional candidate)**

As part of our Infrastructure Group, you'll provide expert technical support and development across our IT infrastructure. You will take responsibility for a number of key web services - and make a real contribution to our strategic projects, including an integrated identity management system.

Along with experience of web application development technologies and IIS/Windows Server administration, you'll need good interpersonal skills, a flexible approach, and familiarity with internet protocols. Ideally, you will have a working knowledge of C#, .Net, SQL, and XHTML - as well as a strong understanding of web technologies such as ADO, AJAX, ASP, XML and CSS. Ref: WSA2/CS/77.

For an informal discussion on either of these vacancies, please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Student Support & Guidance

Student Adviser (Dyslexia & Neuro-Diversity)

£22,332 to £24,403 per annum

You will be responsible for prospective and registered students with dyslexia and neuro-diverse conditions (such as dyspraxia and Asperger syndrome), ensuring that the University provides appropriate support for their needs. We are seeking a team member to provide advice, guidance and information to students and to advise other University staff on appropriate, reasonable adjustments to enable access to the curriculum and all aspects of student life.

You will be educated to at least A level standard or equivalent and be able to demonstrate that you have broad experience of working in a supportive capacity with people with neuro-diverse conditions (in either an educational or voluntary sector setting). Further study or professional development in the field of dyslexia and/or neuro-diversity would be advantageous. Ref: SA/SSG/77.

Library Services

Faculty Liaison Librarian (Health & Social Care)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic librarian to join the Academic Services team at a busy University Library. You will be responsible for sharing academic liaison for the Health & Social Care Faculty, and will contribute to the provision of a library service which is responsive to the needs of all students and staff.

A qualified librarian, you should have previous professional library experience, ideally within the university sector. Excellent presentation and communication skills, along with a good working knowledge of information resources, are essential. You must have a commitment to continued professional development and be able to work independently, as well as part of a team. Ref: FLL2/LS/77.

Sport Science, Tourism and Leisure

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science (Biomechanics)

£26,666 to £40,335 per annum

Applications are invited for a full-time post of Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Sport and Exercise Science to teach Biomechanics on a range of undergraduate programmes as well as contributing to the Department's expanding research programme. Applicants who can also contribute to other areas of sport and exercise science including research methods will be particularly welcome.

Applicants should possess a relevant first and/or higher degree and ideally should also possess a research degree and BASES accreditation. Ref: BIO/SSTL/77.

Informal enquiries to the Head of Department, Dr Chris Bull on 01227 782334.

The starting date is 1 April 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Campus Services

Security Porter

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

You will be responsible for maintaining the general security of the University premises including residential and office accommodation, maintaining CCTV surveillance, setting intruder and fire alarms and reacting to breaches of security. There will be some receptionist and switchboard duties particularly at nights and weekends.

You will have previous security related experience preferably within an educational establishment or similar, be of smart appearance with demonstrable interpersonal skills. You will have excellent communication skills and be able to use the telephone and e-mail systems. A relevant SIA licence will be an advantage.

Shift allocations and duties are variable and flexibility is required. There will be both day and night shift working at any one of our sites although this post will be predominantly a night shift post and you must recognise this as part of the role. Ref: SP4/CAM/77.

Accommodation Office

Security Caretaker (20 hours)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum pro rata

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls spread over different sites, both on and off campus. During vacations they are also available for conferences and commercial letting.

You will be an integral part of a small team which helps to secure and maintain the student living environment at the University Halls of Residence sites.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver an excellent level of customer service, possess good communication and interpersonal skills and have a 'can do' approach to minor repairs, maintenance and general duties.

The hours of work will be Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday.
Ref: SC2/ACC/77.

Night Warden (Two Posts)

£13,739 to £15,300 per annum

The University has a wide range of student accommodation housing some 1,500 students in either self-catering flats or in catered halls. The accommodation is spread over different sites, both on and off campus in Canterbury and during vacations they are available for conferences and commercial letting.

Reporting to the Accommodation Services Manager you will help to secure and maintain the student living environment on the University Halls of Residence sites working a varied shift roster any 5 days out of 7, mainly night shifts. The successful applicant, will nevertheless, need to be flexible and with due notice (usually a month's notice of change) accept shift changes readily.

With a background in caretaking/security in the public sector you will be able to deliver as part of a central security team an excellent level of customer service to students, staff and visitors to the University. You will also have good communication and interpersonal skills. Ref: NW1/ACC/77.

Campus Catering Services

Executive Head Chef

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Working with the Front of House and Catering Systems Manager this is a key managerial post to move the catering service forward.

With at least NVQ Level 2/3 in Food Preparation and Cooking you will have worked in an institutional catering environment at Head Chef level. You will also be in possession of a current Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate and have been actively involved (preferably led) the introduction of HACCP into a food production kitchen.

You should be conscientious with flair and creativity and be keen to lead an excellent culinary team towards continuing success. Proven leadership skills, financial acumen, communication skills and flair, imagination and enthusiasm for food are essential as is the ability to work in a very busy environment. Ideally you will have experience of working in Higher Education. Ref: EHC1/CAT/77.

Department of Childhood Studies (Location to be confirmed)

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer - Physical Education

£27,466 to £40,335 per annum

You will be a dynamic member of staff working with the existing Physical Education team at an exciting time, when new initiatives are being designed and implemented. You will teach across a range of programmes, including the BA/BSc Physical Education and Sport & Exercise Science, and also will make significant contributions to the ongoing development of Physical Education at the University

You will have a Masters degree (or a commitment to undertake one) and be familiar with current national and international developments and issues in the field of Physical Education. Experience of, or research interest in Inclusion and/or social and cultural aspects of Physical Education are desirable. Ref: LSL9/CHS/77.

Informal enquiries to the Programme Director Paul Carney on 01227 782877 or paul.carney@canterbury.ac.uk

Department of Educational Research & NICER

Research Fellow in Early Years (Fixed Term for 2 years)

£25,134 to £26,666 per annum

Attached to an early years project on character and values education, you will carry out fieldwork, be responsible for analysis and literature reviews and contribute to the writing of reports and materials for a new project beginning in the Autumn Term 2007.

You will be enthusiastic and committed, contributing towards a dynamic and ambitious group of researchers and practitioners. Your subject background will be less important than strong generic research skills, the ability to deliver work of the highest quality and to work as part of a team. Ref: RF1/TEM/77.

For an information discussion, please contact Professor James Arthur on 01227 782277.

Office of The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Academic Registrar

Attractive salary: up to £60,000 per annum

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding individual to the post of Academic Registrar. This is a senior position offering an exciting opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction and management of several important dimensions of student administration within the university.

Reporting to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), your responsibilities will involve leadership of a range of central Registry functions including: management of the central record system (QLS); management of the timetabling and rooming function and system (Syllabus+); student registration; invoicing of tuition fees in liaison with the Student Loans Company (SLC); administration of examinations and processing of student results; management and organisation of graduation and award ceremonies; statistical reporting for internal and external purposes such as required by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

You will be qualified to degree level or equivalent, preferably to higher degree or doctorate level. You will have extensive, senior and relevant experience, including managing a mainframe database, managing staff and budgets, preferably within a Higher Education environment. Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills are essential. Ref: ACA/APA/77.

MEDWAY CAMPUS

Allied Health Professions

Senior Lecturer in Speech & Language Therapy (0.5fte)

£32,796 to £40,335 per annum pro rata

We are looking for an HPC-registered Speech and Language Therapist to join the enthusiastic SLT team supporting the Post Graduate Diploma in Speech and Language Therapy delivered jointly with University of Greenwich.

You will have expertise in working with adults with communication disorders, and although not essential, you may also have an interest in voice, applied linguistics, adult learning disabilities, or hearing impairment. You will develop this as a key role with existing colleagues from Canterbury Christ Church University and University of Greenwich. You will hold a relevant degree and be interested in extending your professional profile. Ref: SLT1/AHP/77.

For informal discussion, please contact Professor Kate Springett, Head of Department, on 01227 782935 or kate.springett@canterbury.ac.uk or Marian McCormick on 01634 894432 or marian.mccormick@canterbury.ac.uk

Closing date: 1 February 2008.

SALOMONS' CAMPUS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Computing Services

Campus Support Lead

£27,466 to £29,139 per annum

As part of our User Technology team, you'll provide essential support to a wide range of users - resolving any problems they are experiencing with hardware, software, networking and AV. While based at the Salomons campus, you will on occasion need to travel to other campuses across Kent.

Having previously worked in a Computing Support environment, you must be an experienced IT professional with plenty of initiative. Self-motivation and flexibility are essential in this role, along with good communication skills at all levels. Ref: CSL/CS/77.

For an informal discussion please contact Louise Sibley on 01227 782522.

Application forms and further details are available from www.canterbury.ac.uk. Alternatively please call 01227 782475 (answerphone) or e-mail hr@canterbury.ac.uk quoting the appropriate reference. No agencies.

Closing date unless stated: 25 January 2008.



Sauflon Pharmaceuticals Limited is an independent manufacturing company producing contact lenses and solutions for markets around the world. We currently have the following vacancies for;

QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY MANAGER – CHEMISTRY (Ref: QCC-3)

The position of Quality Control Laboratory Manager is within our busy QC Chemistry laboratory, reporting to the Quality Assurance Manager.

You will ideally hold a degree (or equivalent) in Analytical Science (or similar), have a varied experience of analytical techniques including chromatographic, spectroscopic, titrimetric and wet chemical analysis, and experience in method validation.

Good organisational skills, computer literacy, high self-motivation and well-developed communication skills are essential ideally with a minimum of 2 years working in a regulated analytical laboratory.

Hours of work: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN (Ref: ENG-4)

We are currently seeking an enthusiastic and pro-active Maintenance Electrician.

As part of the maintenance team you will help maintain and repair plant equipment throughout the Ashford sites. Working to a high standard and compliant with legislation you will need to be able to work as part of a team, or alone.

You will have served a recognised electrical apprenticeship and possess the 16th edition certification. Experience as a qualified maintenance electrician is required and mechanical experience will be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work: 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

To apply please post or email your CV stating your salary expectations to:-

Post: Mrs. S. Keeka (HR Department)

Sauflon Pharmaceuticals Limited,

Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate

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Email: simonlk@sauflon.co.uk

Demelza Hospice Care for Children provides care to life limited children and support to their families. We rely almost entirely on fundraising to run our services and the Trading Company provides a valuable income stream.

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22.5 hours per week to be worked over three days, including alternate Saturdays.

Retail Assistant, Hythe

13 hours per week, to be worked over two days to include alternate Fridays and Saturdays.

For all posts you will need:-

- Retail experience, preferably in the charity sector
- Excellent people and Customer Service skills
- To be numerate and able to keep good records
- Ability to undertake moving and handling within our guidelines, our shops premises have several floors
- Excellent organisation skills
- To be able to train and work alongside our excellent volunteers as part of a team.

For an application pack call our recruitment line on 01795 845295 stating the post you are interested in.

For an informal chat call Claire Jordan, Trading Manager on 01795 845202.

Closing Date: 23rd January, 2007

www.demelza.org.uk

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Post-holders are expected to be proactive in their approach to problem solving and a "Can Do" attitude is essential. A calm disposition and an ability to multi-task is also a vital requirement.

Additionally in order to fulfil this demanding role you will need:

- Excellent communication and observation skills.
- First Class hearing and a clear speaking voice.
- You will have the ability to prioritise your work-load in a high pressure environment.
- Good administration skills, including data entry and computer literate.

Applicants will be holders of, or make a commitment to study for the 'Edexcel National Certificate for Central Control Operators' and will be subject to receipt of satisfactory enhanced disclosure check from the Criminal Records Bureau and Airwaves check.

Initially the post-holder will be based at Philippa House Control Centre however in the early part of the new year the team will transfer to a purpose built Control Room Suite at the Civic Centre.

For further information about these posts, please contact Angela Vince or Shelley Squance on 01303 242971.

Application details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Focus your vision on future conference

COMPANIES of all sizes and sectors have been invited to take part in Kent's largest business exhibition and conference.

Kent 2020 Vision aims to showcase the best in business in the county and provide them with opportunities for future growth.

More than 300 leading companies exhibited at last year's event with at least 3,000 people attending. This year's conference is expected to attract more businesses and visitors. Early bookers will be able to choose locations which suit them.

The event organised by Business Link and supported by Kent County Council, which is now in its third year, will be held at Kent Showground in Detling on Thursday, April 3.

Tony Buddin, Business Link's head of marketing, said: "To some it may seem a long way off, but I can assure you that this business-to-business event is already firmly booked in the diaries of many companies in Kent and further afield."

"Well-organised, promoted and attended exhibitions such as Kent 2020 Vision are a valuable opportunity for local businesses to promote their products or services.

"They are also useful for networking, making new contacts and signing up new clients."

To book an exhibition stand visit www.kent2020.co.uk or call 01732 878555.

Scince Park recognised as an important site

AN OFFICIAL report has given Kent Science Park the green light for its short and long-term expansion.

Planning inspector David Wildsmith's study acknowledged that the Sittingbourne site is "unique within the Thames Gateway" as "a regionally important cluster of technology and knowledge-based businesses".

He said the land to the south and south-east of the park is "the most acceptable direction for expansion".

Mr Wildsmith suggested a master plan for long-term expansion to be drawn up, but to meet shorter term needs he recommended planning permission be granted for limited growth outside its current boundary.

He recognised the value of the Kent Science Park Resource Centre, which offers a BSc foundation degree.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Convincing Kent's business leaders to carry on choosing a Mercedes-Benz

Staying positive

Arguably 2008 is one of the most uncertain years for business in a decade. Here **Jo James**, director of membership services for Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce tries to gauge the overall feel for prospects in the next 12 months – and believes confidence is the key

I BELIEVE that 2008 could be described as an "interesting" year for business: it is almost as if the whole business climate is hanging on a "wait and see" situation.

The Bank of England cut the interest rate by one quarter of one per cent, but with promises of more to come in the New Year, that should be good news.

"The climate facing UK businesses has worsened, and the position will become riskier and more difficult over the next year," said the British Chambers of Commerce, in the assessment of its Quarterly Economic Survey.

But it observed: "The business sector is still strong... we urge the Government to pay particular attention to threats facing small businesses."

Dennis Turner, Chief Economist of HSBC Bank, commenting in the bank's December economic commentary on the interest rate cut by the Bank of England said: "The behaviour of the labour market confirms that the economy remains in reasonable shape. New jobs are still being created, employment in the three months to September hit a new all-time high and the claimant count measure of unemployment fell back to 825,000, the lowest for three years.

"It appears to be fear of what is to come rather than what has already happened that forced the Monetary Policy Committee's hand."

The UK Government has managed to delay implementation of the EU Agency Workers Directive, which could potentially cost UK businesses up to 250,000 jobs, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The proposals in the directive unfairly impact on the UK



CONFIDENCE: Jo James, from Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce says we should not have a negative attitude

economy as we currently employ a third of all EU agency workers. The Directive also risks the established flexibility of our labour market, which has been a major factor driving job creation." The legislation will be discussed again next year.

The Halifax has reported the third consecutive monthly fall in house prices, the first time this has happened since 1995. Consumer confidence indicators are at their lowest levels for five years.

In an unprecedented move, central banks around the world took coordinated action to boost liquidity, announcing steps to make it easier for stressed banks to access cash in the hopes of quelling the knock-on impact of the credit crunch. But if that does not work, what then?

Wow! Hold on to your hats, business people – we might be in for a rough ride.

There again, we might not. It does seem to

me that is precisely where we are – nowhere precise. In all the years I have been involved in business support, I don't think we have ever been in such an unpredictable position.

There is an optimistic view. If all these "wait and see" aspects work out on the positive side the economic stability and prosperity we have enjoyed for the last few years will continue.

I think we can all contribute to the positive. All the indications are that we are doing quite well at the minute, thank you – but everybody seems to think that things are bound to go bad.

This is a negative attitude, which can in itself contribute to economic turn-down. There is such a thing as "talking down" the economy. I'm not suggesting that we should ignore indicators and act irresponsibly, but confidence – in consumers and businesses – is catching.

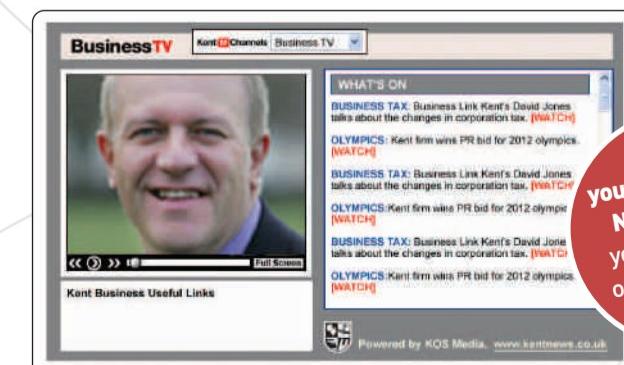
Let us all have a Happy New Year, and look on the bright side!

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Mixed bag of results for Invicta stocking

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Ramsgate 2 Folkestone Invicta 1

THE Christmas period heralded mixed results for Neil Cugley's Folkestone Invicta as they picked up a defeat and a loss in their two festive games.

A Frankie Chappell header on 64 minutes secured a much needed victory for Invicta on Boxing Day against Hastings United. The 1-0 win was only their third victory at the Buzzlines Stadium this season.

Disappointing

However, they were brought back down to earth with a disappointing defeat against high-flying Ramsgate on Saturday.

Invicta worked hard in the first half and their best chance came on 39 minutes, when Leigh Bremner's shot was tipped over by Paul Wilkerson in the Ramsgate goal.

Ramsgate took the lead on 73 minutes, when Warren Schulz capitalised on a goal mouth scramble and poked the ball into the net.

The lead only lasted two minutes, as Richard Shittu's effort found the back of the net off a Ramsgate defender.

The game was won in the 85th minute when Dan Dolton placed his free kick in the bottom corner of the net, out of the reach of Invicta goalkeeper Luke Stonebridge.

A disappointed Cugley said: "I am disappointed we didn't win. I thought we were the better side throughout the game. To give the goal away like we did having a gap in the defensive wall was hard to take. It was just that little bit of quality in the final third that cost us again. At this level you need money to get that kind of quality in. I think a draw would have been a fair result."

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture LAWRENCE ARNOLD

MIXED FORTUNES: Invicta's Leigh Bremner worked tirelessly for the cause, but was denied by Ramsgate goalkeeper Paul Wilkerson

Whites maintain festive record



CHEERED: Andy Hessenthaler's side are three points clear at the top of Ryman Division One South

A STUNNING equaliser from Andy Hessenthaler ensured Dover Athletic were unbeaten over the Christmas period.

It was Whitstable who took the lead early in the second half, when Danny Tipple's cross was turned into his own net by Dover defender Matt Bourne.

Just after the hour Hessenthaler sent the crowd into raptures, when his strike from the edge of the area found the top corner.

He said: "I didn't think it was fair a result on the balance of play, but you have to give Whitstable credit for making us work hard. For me, too many of our players had an off day and I am disappointed to drop two points without being disrespectful to Whitstable."

On Boxing Day, two strikes from Frannie Collin secured a 2-1 win at Ashford Town, despite going a goal behind.

The Whites were forced to work hard for their win as

FOOTBALL

Dover Athletic 1 Whitstable Town 1

Ashford provided a strong test. Town opened the scoring with a goal from Paul Jones and felt they should have been 2-0 up at the break.

Solid build-up play from the Dover midfield proved crucial and it was Collin's chip and calm finish from Jimmy Dryden's pass that wrapped up a 2-1 victory.

A delighted Hessenthaler added: "If you had said to me at the start of the season that we would be three points clear at this stage I would have bitten your hand off. So all in all I am happy. A lot of people expected us to win, but you have to remember we didn't lose and are still 11 games unbeaten."

yourdover

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

It's been an eventful year of sport in the county

THE biggest event in the 2007 sporting calendar was the Tour de France which swept through the streets of Kent, but there were a number of highlights in the county last year.

JANUARY: Maidstone United moved one step closer to a return to the town after work began on a new ground at the former Ministry of Defence site in James Whatman Way. The club acquired a 99-year lease on the site, courtesy of a £98,000 council loan.

FEBRUARY: Former Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright became a director of Ryman Division One South strugglers Ashford Town. Wright hoped to make an impact on the club's youth set-up by taking the role of director of football strategy.

MARCH: After seven years in the wilderness, plans to revive Canterbury City Football Club were given the go-ahead. The club folded in 1999 due to lack of interest, but at a public meeting, the club were given the go-ahead to join the British Energy County League.

APRIL: Margate boxer Mehrdad Takaloo lost his WBU Welterweight crown in front of 35,000 fans at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff. Takaloo was defeated on points in his title fight with Michael Jennings from Chorley.

MAY: Steve Bennett from Orpington became the first referee to take charge of an FA Cup final at the new Wembley Stadium, as Chelsea defeated Manchester United 1-0. Bennett said: "It's every referee's dream to officiate the cup final and I guess it makes it extra special because of where it's taking place and the teams that are involved."

JUNE: Kent cricket coach Graham Ford caused controversy after he appeared to verbally accept a one-year deal to coach the India national side. After the South African travelled to Chennai for an interview, he declined the role to remain at Kent.

JULY: The sun-drenched streets of Kent hosted one of the world's biggest sporting events in the form of the Tour de France. More than two million people lined the 126-mile stage, which took in Dartford, Medway, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford.

AUGUST: Kent lifted their first trophy in six years after beating Gloucestershire in the final of the Twenty20 Cup at Edgbaston. Ryan McLaren starred, taking the first hat-trick in a Twenty20 final.

SEPTEMBER: Gillingham chairman Paul Scally began his search for a new manager after Ronny Jepson quit the club. Jepson offered his resignation on September 9 after losing five of the first six games to end his 22-month spell at the Kent club.

OCTOBER: The England rugby team displayed great courage in reaching the World Cup final, no more so than ex-Tunbridge Wells schoolboy Martin Corry. The Leicester Tigers forward missed out on the victorious 2003 campaign down under, but was instrumental in helping England overcome Australia and France before losing to South Africa in the final.

NOVEMBER: Gillingham ended their eight-week search for a manager when former Stevenage and Grays boss Mark Stimson was installed. Chairman Paul Scally interviewed several candidates, but was convinced he had found the right man. He said: "Managers at a very senior level have said they believe he is a fantastic coach and manager and he is going to go on and do very well."

DECEMBER: Sir Trevor Brooking took time out of his role in offering the England job to Fabio Capello, to support Kent FA's blueprint for grassroots football to 2012. Sir Trevor said: "Football is perceived to be awash with money, but at community level that is far from the case."

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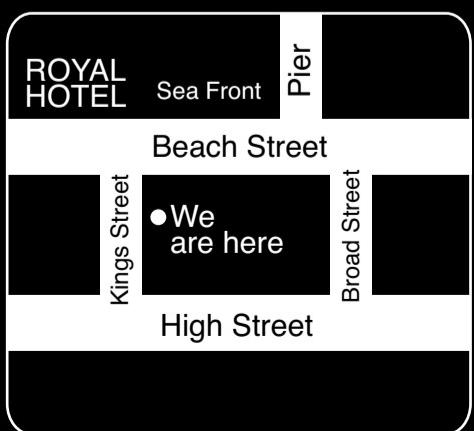
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